

The Good News



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

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 2 at 4 pm

We will gather to decorate the church for the Advent Season. Lasagna Dinner will follow.

Christmas Pageant

December 3rd at 3 pm

Prince of Life and West Linn Lutheran Churches are joining together to present a joint Christmas Pageant here at Prince of Life on Sunday, December 3 at 3 pm.

Advent Wednesday Worship

**Day and Evening Worship
On December 6, 13 & 20**

Prince of Life Lutheran Church
Noon - Soup and Rolls for Lunch
Noon Worship
12:30 pm Soup and Rolls

Zion Lutheran Church
720 Jefferson St., Oregon City
6 pm Soup Supper
6:30 pm Worship

Blue Christmas?

December 21, 6 pm

If you have lost a loved one this year, or for some reason this holiday season will be difficult, please join us on Thursday, December 21, 6 pm in the sanctuary for a *Blue Christmas*. This will be a time to remember your loved one, or to acknowledge whatever loss you have experienced, and to find comfort in God's promises and the consolation of the community.

The service will also be available on Zoom.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve falls on the fourth Sunday of Advent this year. On Sunday, December 24th we will have our regular Sunday worship service at 9:30 am, celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent.

We will also offer two Christmas Eve services, a 5 pm family-oriented service with children's message and a 10 pm service. Both services will offer a sermon from Pastor Robert, Holy Communion and candle lighting. The parking lot and Zoom/livestream will also be offered at both services.



Once again this year Prince of Life is Partnering with the Oregon City Police Department to provide Christmas gifts to families in need here in Oregon City.

Our Angel Tree will be up by Sunday, December 3rd. Please take an angel from the tree and buy what is indicated. Wrap the gift and use the angel as a gift tag. Bring your gift to the church by December 17th. These gifts will be delivered by Oregon City Police officers.

There will also be angels on the Angel Tree for items for our local homeless shelter, The Father's Heart. If you can't find an angel on the tree a list of items needed for The Father's Heart is on the narthex bulletin board.

Poinsettias Time

Remember or honor someone who has been a special gift to you with a Poinsettia this year.

You are invited to help decorate our sanctuary for Advent and Christmas by donating a beautiful poinsettia this season.

Poinsettias are \$15 each and may be taken home following Christmas Eve services on December 24th.

Special Poinsettia Envelopes will be available in the narthex for your contributions. Don't forget to tell us who you wish to remember so that we may include their names in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin. Please return your envelope with payment by December 10th.

Please place your Poinsettia envelopes in the offering plate.



Backpack Buddies

We will have a special assembly of Backpack Buddies bags on Saturday, December 16 starting at 8 a.m.

We will pack up to 400 bags in preparation for a special holiday delivery.

No special skills are required so please join us if you can.

If you can help with shopping or picking up boxes or have any general questions, please contact Cathy Warner at 503-975-1777 or clwarner1@gmail.com.

*Our pastoral call committee reports that interviews for our new pastor have begun.
Watch your weekly email for up-to-date news this month!*

Pastor Robert's Reflections

Fellow children of God,

The Christmas season is upon us again! Beginning in mid-October just as the zombies and vampires were just getting comfortable on the store shelves in between the large bags of candy corn and decorative skeletons; brightly colored trees, strangely decorated wreaths of red and green, strange bearded white men dressed in red, little elvish creatures, and an endless assortment of small decorative balls invaded the shelves.

These strange and joyous decorations slowly pushed these dark and creepy symbols of Halloween and the beginning of fall out of the way, as the dark looming of presence of Mariah Carey and the other representatives of the looming Christmas season prepared to take over. Now that Advent is upon us I am finally willing to embrace these strange joyous decorations that have been invading our store shelves for months. For over a century now Christmas has been slowly taking over the fall holiday season pushing Halloween and Thanksgiving out of the way as stores compete as to who can get their Christmas decorations out first, yet things were not always this way...

In the early days of American history Christmas was a relatively minor holiday only celebrated by the most devout Christian families and did not include many of the traditions or decorations that we now associate with Christmas. That began to change during the latter half of the 19th century when Christmas was deemed a federal holiday in 1870.

Initially this did not go as many had hoped. Workers, mainly men, now often enjoyed either their workplace closing or operating under limited hours between December 25th through January 1st and that meant that a lot of these men were spending a lot more time in the bars and brothels that dotted the big cities.

Women's aid groups in New York soon became fed up with the amount of drinking and assorted debauchery that plagued the city around the end

of the year and they pledged to embark on a media campaign to change attitudes around the holiday. Their goal was to transform the Christmas holiday into a more family-oriented holiday like Thanksgiving rather than just being a religious holiday. Thus, the image of Christmas was transformed with the help of imagery from popular literature of the time such as "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and thus the modern images of Santa Claus and Children gathered around a Christmas tree (a decoration brought here from German immigrants) lined with presents were spread far and wide. Retail Stores jumped on board with this campaign almost immediately since it greatly boosted the "holiday shopping season" and helped curb the excessive drunkenness that was causing disturbances in and around their businesses.



Christmas was now mainstream, and today people who no longer celebrate the birth of Jesus, or never did, gather with family and friends to share a meal and exchange gifts with each other. While I do take joy in the idea of people from all walks of life and from all over the world coming together to share a meal and exchange gifts I often worry that we sometimes lose sight of the purpose of this celebration.

During the season of Advent we light a candle each week as prepare for the coming of Jesus, and each candle symbolizes what the birth of Jesus means to not only Christians but all of God's Children. The first candle symbolizes Hope; hope for a world centered around God and the world God created. The Second candle symbolizes Love; a love for creation and a love for all the many blessings God has given us. The third candle symbolizes Joy; the joy that comes with new life and a new beginning. And the fourth candle symbolizes Peace; the peace that we all have received through our faith and the

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

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

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.



**Christmas Nativity painting
by Romy Terlingua.**



The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Prince of Life on December 11th, 2-7pm.

Schedule your appointment at
www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive
or call 1-800-733-2767

When you give blood you will receive a \$10 gift card from Amazon.



**Hand-made tin Christmas Angel
made in Oaxaca, Mexico**

(Continued from page 3)

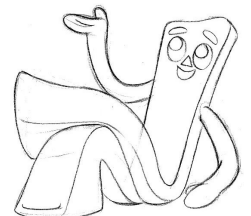
peace that God wishes that we can some day achieve when we learn to accept and celebrate our differences as children of God.

These words are not just symbols but are what God wants for each and every one of us, and that is why God sent Jesus into this world. May the hope of a new day where all will learn to love one another fill you with a joy that surpasses all other pleasures that this life can offer, and may that hope, love, and joy bring you peace as we await the birth of our savior Jesus Christ.

Amen
Peace

Pastor Robert

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



Fun and Fellowship at Prince of Life

Game Night December 8th

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, December 8th, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. See you then!

Questions: cindyborders24@gmail.com

December 17th All-Church Potluck

December 17 will be Christmas potluck. Meat will be provided by Fellowship Committee. There will be a sign up in the Narthex

Questions: cindyborders24@gmail.com



Green Planet

Quoting this article's intro "Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, Americans throw away a **million extra tons** of trash each week, including holiday wrapping and packaging.

We also use more electricity on holiday lights than some countries use in an entire year! All this waste is really unnecessary.

Here are twelve eco-friendly holiday tips to help you reduce your environmental footprint this holiday season."

<https://www.smallfootprintfamily.com/eco-friendly-holiday-tips>

Take care of each other and our planet. Peace and joy during this blessed season. Peace,

Carol Bresky



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.



Other churches are providing meals this month. It will be our turn again in January 2024.

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



Helping Other People Eat

A woman named Tricia Anne Mayer recently shared the following via social media. Here's a new way of thinking about your donations to HOPE:

1. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
2. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
3. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or **buy pop tops**.
4. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
5. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
6. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
7. Sugar and flour are treats.
8. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
9. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
10. They rarely get fresh meat.
11. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
12. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
13. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
14. Butter or margarine is nice too.
15. Eggs are a real commodity.
16. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
17. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
18. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
19. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.
20. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.

In all the years I have donated food at the Holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked. I am glad I did. If you are helping a Family this Christmas, maybe this can help you tailor it more. It does for me!

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.

Children, Youth & Family Service Committee

We continue to meet monthly and monitor the progress of our exploration with ClackCoKids for them to build a daycare structure on our property. In October, those who attended the ClackCoKids celebration said they thought it was a success in promoting what they do and in fundraising.

We also discussed doing additional networking with the City of Oregon City, deciding it would be best to meet with their Economic Development Department first. That is now scheduled.

Stay tuned for more information each month.

Janet Mann,
Chair



No Pub Talk in December.
Look for its return in January 2024

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

Mission Endowment Fund

Merry Christmas my Prince of Life family.

Are you getting your Christmas list together? Consider adding Prince of Life Endowment fund to your giving list. When you make a tax-deductible gift to the Endowment Fund it lasts all year long. In fact for many years to come.

You see only the interest is given out as grants to other non-profits. So your gift continues to grow as the fund grows.

This past year we were able to gift \$1725 to grant recipients.

Sue Stark

Edith Speaketh: Mystery Book

I remember talking with one of you about a book you enjoyed. Shortly afterwards it was a pleasant surprise to find "Evensong," by Gail Godwin on my desk when I arrived at work one Tuesday morning.

I enjoyed reading this novel about an Episcopalian priest and her husband, who is also a priest. The book was published in 1999 and takes place at the end of the 20th century, before smart-phones, FaceBook, YouTube, and Zoom meetings.

"Evensong" is full of interesting people and events. I enjoyed reading it very much and have checked out two more books by the author Gail Goodwin from our county library.

But who was the kind person who left this delightful novel on my desk? I've spoken with several of you and each person I ask has denied any knowledge of the book, or the person who kindly shared it with me.

Please, kind giver, identify yourself so that I may thank you properly!

December Sermon Scripture

December 3
Promise of the Messiah
Jeremiah 33:14- 18
Mark 8:27-29

December 10
Isaiah of the Exile
Isaiah 40:1-11
Mark 1:1-4

December 17
Rebuilding the Temple
Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13
Luke 2:25-32

December 24 (9:30 am)
Zechariah's Song
Luke 1:5-13 [14- 25], 57-80
Psalm 113

December 24 (5 and 10 pm)
Birth of Jesus
Luke 2:1-14 [15- 20]
Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55)

December 25
Shepherd's Visit
Luke 2:8-20
Psalm 108:1-4

December 31
Beginning of Good News
Mark 1:1-20
Psalm 91:9-12

December Confirmation Class

December 3 11:30
@ West Linn Lutheran Church
Subject: ELCA

December 10 11:30
@ Prince of Life
Subject: Hot Topic RIC

December Celebrations!

Birthdays

1 Jade Harris, Anna-Marie Wood
2 Larry O'Dea
5 Dan Martin
8 Connie McFarland
10 Sally Worthge
11 Kay O'Dea
15 Gaye Cole, Nick Dierckman,
Zachary Rickey
18 Jorgen Fosser, Karlynn Salter
19 Sharon Wilson
21 Debbie Wood
23 William Randolph
25 Tom Rodway
29 Brenda Haunschild
30 Bob Bresky

Anniversaries

6 Kristen & Matt Paschall
30 John & Janet Mann

God's blessings on your special day!

Crooner Christmas

West Linn Community Chorus
2023 Holiday Concert
New Thought Center for Spiritual Living
1040 C Ave, Lake Oswego, OR 97034
December 15, 7 pm
December 16, 4 pm
Admission: \$15
More info at westlinchorus.org

December

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed.	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>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.</p> <p>Please submit your articles for the January newsletter by December 15.</p>					<p>1 6 pm Scrap-Booking</p>	<p>2 9 am Scrap-book 4 pm Hanging of the Greens</p>
<p>3 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 11:30 Confirmation Class @ WLLC 2 pm Girl Scouts 3 pm Christmas Pageant</p>	<p>4 4:30 Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>5 11 am Staff Mtg. 7 pm Worship Committee</p>	<p>6 Noon Advent Worship 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery 6pm Advent Supper & Worship at Zion Lutheran Church</p>	<p>7 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 12:30 Oregon City Women's Club 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>8 6:30 pm Game Night</p>	<p>9 9 am NW Disability Support Event</p>
<p>10 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Coffee Hour 11 am All Church Potluck 11:30 Confirmation Class @ POL</p>	<p>11 2 pm Red Cross Blood Drive 4:30 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>12 10:00 am Material Girls 11 am Staff Mtg. 6 pm Property Committee Mtg. 7 Council Mtg 6 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>13 Noon Advent Worship 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery 6pm Advent Supper & Worship at Zion Lutheran Church</p>	<p>14 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>		<p>16 8 am Backpack Buddies</p>
<p>17 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 9:10:30 Potluck 2 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>18 4:30 Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>19 11 am Staff Mtg. 6 pm Girl Scouts Noon Retired Men's Lunch @ Wichita Pub 7 pm Child, Youth & Family Service Com. On Zoom 7 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>20 Noon Advent Worship 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery 6pm Advent Supper & Worship at Zion Lutheran Church</p>	<p>21 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6 pm Blue Christmas 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>		
<p>24 Christmas Eve 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Coffee Hour 5 & 10 pm Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day</p>	<p>26 11 am Staff Mtg. 6 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>27 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery</p>	<p>28 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 10 am Backpack Buddies 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>Pastor Rob on Vacation Dec. 25 thru Jan. 1</p>						
<p>New Year's Eve 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>January 1, 2024</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Looking Ahead to 2024: Prince of Life Lutheran Church will hold our Annual Budget Meeting on Sunday, January 21, following our 9:30 am worship service.</p>				
<p>Pastor Rob's Vacation</p>						



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



“Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!”

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.