

The Good News

Pastor's Press: Easter People, Living in Trusted Togetherness

Dear friends in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

In this Easter season, we find ourselves living in the light of resurrection—a light that does not erase the wounds of the world, but shines through them. The risen Christ still bears the marks of the cross. And yet, in those very wounds, we see life, hope, and promise.

This year, in the Easter season, we reflect on a simple but powerful theme: **trusted togetherness**.

After the resurrection, Jesus does not immediately send his followers off on their own. Instead, he gathers them. Behind locked doors, in fear and uncertainty, the disciples are together—and it is there that Christ appears among them. Not to individuals scattered and striving alone, but to a community learning to trust again.

“Peace be with you,” he says.

This is where Easter begins—not with certainty, but with presence. Not with perfect faith, but with Christ drawing near to people who are unsure, afraid, and yet

still *gathered together*.

From a Lutheran perspective, this matters deeply. Our faith has never been about individual achievement or spiritual self-sufficiency. We are people who receive—grace, forgiveness, and new life—as gifts. And we receive them not in isolation, but in community. Around Word and Sacrament, we are formed together into the Body of Christ.

Trusted togetherness means we do not have to have everything figured out. Like Thomas, we may have questions. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we may struggle to recognize Christ walking beside us. And yet, in these shared spaces of questioning and discovery, Christ is made known—in the breaking of the bread, in the speaking of peace, in the simple act of being together.

This kind of togetherness is not always easy. Trust takes time. It requires honesty, patience, and grace with one another.

CONTINUED ON P. 2

In this issue:

Council Corner
(P 2)

The Living Word
(P 3)

Trusted
Togetherness (P 3)

Social Justice
Childcare Update
(P 4)

Lenten Food Drive
Results
(P 5)

Blood Drive
Announcement
and Results (P 5)

Monthly Calendar &
Celebrations
(P 6-7)

Council Corner

Save the Date!

Prince of Life's annual meeting of the congregation will be Sunday, April 26th after Worship.

The Meeting Agenda will be posted in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall by Sunday, April 12th, 2026.

Please make sure you plan to join us!

Pastor's Press Cont.

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

But it is precisely in this imperfect community that the resurrection becomes real. We begin to see that faith is not something we carry alone—it is something that carries us, together.

Inspired by voices like Richard Rohr, we are reminded that Scripture itself tells the story of a people learning, growing, and encountering God over time. As Lutherans, we hold fast to the truth that at the center of that story is Christ—crucified and risen for us. The Bible is not just information to be mastered, but a living Word that gathers us, challenges us, and continually points us back to Jesus.

So in this Easter season, perhaps the invitation is this:

- To trust that Christ is present among us—even when we are uncertain.
- To trust that we are stronger in community than we are alone.
- To trust that God is still at work—forming us, forgiving us, and sending us out together.
-

Because the good news of Easter is not just that Christ is risen. It is that the risen Christ is with us. And in him, we are never alone.

Alleluia, and ***amen***.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Sena

The Living Word: Reading Scripture in Trusted Togetherness

Richard Rohr's *What Do We Do with the Bible?* invites readers to move beyond a strictly literal reading of Scripture and recover a richer, more layered way of engaging the text—what the Christian tradition has long called the “senses of Scripture.”

Rohr highlights that the Bible has always been understood on multiple levels, not just as a record of historical events or moral instructions. He draws especially on the ancient fourfold sense of Scripture:

- **Literal sense** – what the text says on the surface; the story itself
- **Moral sense** – how the text invites us to live and act
- **Allegorical sense** – how the text points to deeper truths, especially about Christ
- **Anagogical sense** – how the text draws us toward ultimate meaning, hope, and union with God

Rohr argues that modern readers—especially in more literalist traditions—have often reduced the Bible to just the

first level. In doing so, we risk missing its depth, mystery, and transformative power. Scripture, for Rohr, is not meant to be a flat rulebook, but a living text that grows with us and continually opens new meaning.

By reclaiming these multiple “senses,” Rohr encourages readers to approach the Bible with humility and openness, allowing it to shape not only what we think, but how we see, love, and participate in God’s ongoing work in the world.

In this way, the Bible becomes less about having the “right interpretation” and more about entering into a lifelong relationship with God through the text.

Reference:

Rohr, Richard. *What Do We Do with the Bible?* Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2018.

Easter Series: Trusted Togetherness

This Easter season, we explore what it means to live as “resurrection people” through the theme of Trusted Togetherness.

Using the Revised Common Lectionary, each week highlights how the risen Christ gathers us—not as individuals alone, but as a community shaped by grace, love, and shared faith.

From the disciples gathered in fear, to Thomas’ doubt, to the call to abide in Christ’s love, we see that faith is something we live

out together. Even as Christ ascends and the Spirit is given at Pentecost, we are reminded that we are never sent alone.

Along the way, we will also reflect on the many ways love nurtures and sustains community, especially on Mother’s Day, holding space for both gratitude and complexity.

Join us as we discover how Christ continues to meet us, form us, and send us—together.

Social Justice Childcare Update

The Prince of Life Social Justice Committee on Childcare Issues met on 3/15/26 after the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) presentation. Unfortunately, I have not heard anything about the planned follow up for the Childcare Coalition of Clackamas County Advocacy and Engagement Committee since our meeting in January. I will continue working to connect with them.

The three of us decided to contact Senator Mark Meek of Senate District 20, since I already knew him from my time in the Oregon City Chamber and Prince of Life is in his district. Rebecca Harms and I met with him on 3/25/26 and he filled us in on the Legislative Child Care Caucus made up of members from both the House and the Senate with representation from both Democrats and Republicans. Further investigation shows that this group transitioned to a full caucus structure at the beginning of the 2025-2026 session (which encompasses both the long session in 2025 and the short session in 2026) and lists 41 members (there are 90 House plus Senate members in the OR Legislature).

Senator Meek particularly mentioned the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) subsidies offered to low-income women and families so they can work. For the 2026 short session, the first Caucus budget priority was to maintain funding for ERDC subsidies at the current level since they were due to expire on January 1, 2027. Senator Meek reported that was achieved.

He has been particularly concerned about the ERDC program even before he was elected to the legislature since the company he was working for had hired a

single woman with a child who received an ERDC subsidy. He discovered that the program's eligibility requirements had a 'yes' or 'no' cliff for eligibility where if a raise caused an increase in income the subsidy was lost even if the raise did not make up the difference the subsidy was providing. That is exactly what happened to the young woman he mentioned as she was forced to quit the job at their firm after receiving a raise even though she didn't want to. This has since been replaced with a sliding scale.

Another policy issue they list for working on in 2027 and beyond is addressing zoning and permitting barriers for child care to locate in residential or industrial areas. This would help provide adequate numbers of providers, convenient for families.

Rebecca and I found Mark's information encouraging and will continue to look for other ways to spread the word and advocate for continued work at the state level.

Since I will be recuperating from surgery, Rebecca will be leading our April Childcare Advocacy Committee meeting on April 19th downstairs in a corner of the Fellowship Hall, discussing the paper Child Care Caucus | 2025 Site Visit Report. You can find it by scanning the QR Code.

Janet Mann and Rebecca Harms
Childcare Advocacy Committee



Scan for Child Care Caucus
2025 Site Visit Report

Rhythm and News: Updates from our Music Director

Together we have walked through the suffering, crucifixion and ultimate resurrection and victory of our Lord and Savior. This is the greatest celebration of the Church year, and we are ready to celebrate!

Over the summer, we'll schedule a Worship Sing, to feature some of POL's favorite worship music.

Be thinking about songs you'd like included--I'll prepare a request list after I catch up from a very busy few weeks.

Meanwhile, may the joy of Easter continue to grow and refresh your soul!

Suzan -
Music Director



Lent Food Collection Results

The congregation collected 970 pounds of food. Of that 38 went to Backpack Buddies and 932 went to HOPE. There were also a handful of cash donations.

Our friends at HOPE were very grateful. Thank you to everyone who contributed during the food drive. Thank you also to all those who helped sort, box and transport the food on March 30th.



Blood Drive Coming April 6th

The next blood drive is scheduled for April 6, from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The Red Cross encourages donors to make an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

January Blood Drive Results:

23 Presenting Donors, 10 First-Time Donors, 8 Power Red Units. There were 20 total life-saving units collected, which could save up to 60 lives!

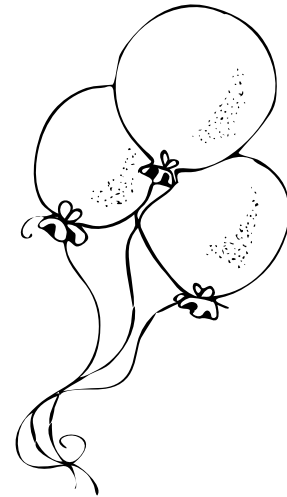
April Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Kari Gulwan
- 2 Livia Kruse
- 4 Seth Reno
- 5 Kathy Rickey
- 8 J. David Estola
- 9 Susan Rodway
- 11 Jayden Daniels, Allen Taylor
- 18 Judy Cook
- 20 Anabella Wilson
- 21 Molly Hulett
- 22 Rex Hagans, Brandon Wood
- 27 Betty Martin
- 28 Larry Murphy

Anniversaries

- 8 Derek & Connie Kruse
- 29 Paul & Kathy Rickey



God's Blessings on your celebrations!

April Fellowship Opportunities

All Church Potluck 4/12

Bring your favorite Spring recipe to share.

LLL Happy Hour 4/21

We will meet for Happy Hour at Tacho's in Oregon City.

Men's Lunch 4/21

3rd Tuesday each month. Men are invited to meet at Wichita Pub (OC) at 12pm for food and fellowship. Need a ride? Call Harlow Jacobson at 503-656-1616.

Family Game Night 4/17

Join us at 6:30 with your favorite board game and a Potluck dish to share.

April Calendar

			1	2	3	4
			4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts 6:30 Maundy Thurs Worship	6:30 Good Friday Worship	10am Holy Saturday Open Sanctuary 4pm Set up for Easter Brunch
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am Easter Worship 11am Brunch 6pm Private Event	EASTER MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED 1pm Red Cross Blood Drive 4:30 Private Event	8:45 am Gleaners 11:30am PEO 4:30pm Worship Committee 4:30 Private Event	10am Bible Study 4:45pm Navigators 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12:30 OC Women's Club 6:15pm Scouts	12pm Scrapbooking Group	9am Scrapbooking Group
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
LUTHERWOOD SUNDAY 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Potluck	4:30 Private Event	8:45 am Gleaners 6pm Private Event 7pm Council	10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	6:30 pm Family Game Night	9:30am DAR
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10 am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour 11:15 Social Justice Childcare Comm 6pm Private Event	4:30 Private Event	8:45am Gleaners 10am Material Girls 12pm Men's Lunch @ Wichita 4 LLL at Tacho's 4:30 Private Event 6 Private Event 7 Private Event	10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12pm Backpack Buddies 6:15pm Scouts		
26	27	28	29	30		
10 am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am PoL Annual Voter's Meeting	MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 4:30 Private Event 7pm Private Event	8:45am Gleaners 6pm Private Event	10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts		

PRINCE OF LIFE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
13896 MEYERS RD
OREGON CITY, OR 97045



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.

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

phone: 503-657-3100
www.princeoflife.org