

The Good News

Pastor's Press: Wait for Jesus - Don't Wait to Do Good Works!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter the season of Advent, the rhythm of the new Church year gently invites us to slow down. While the world around us rushes into Christmas—sales, decorations, and celebrations before the day even arrives—Advent calls us **to wait, to watch**, and **to prepare** our hearts with expectations **not To Do** and Must-Have lists.

Waiting is not something most of us do easily – I am an impatient person myself at times. We live in a culture that prizes instant results, immediate responses, and quick solutions. Yet Scripture reminds us that God often works in the waiting. Israel waited generations for the promised Messiah. Mary waited, treasuring and pondering God's promises in her heart. The Church today waits for Christ's return, trusting that God's timing is always good.

Advent waiting is not passive, though. It is a hopeful, active kind of waiting. We light candles each week to proclaim that even the smallest light pushes back the darkness. We gather in worship

to hear again the promises of God. And we practice attentiveness—watching for ways Christ is already coming to us in Word and Sacrament, in our neighbor, and in the quiet moments of grace that fill our days.

Advent also reminds us not to overlook the gift of *giving and good works*. In waiting, we can become inwardly focused—thinking about what we need, what we lack, what we long for. But the season invites us to lift our eyes and see others who are waiting too: those waiting for hope, for comfort, for companionship, for daily bread. As Christ comes to us with overflowing mercy, we are called to let that mercy overflow through us.

Giving in Advent is not just about meeting material needs, though that certainly matters. It is also about giving time, attention, presence, encouragement, forgiveness, and love.

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Council Corner

Council invites all to join the Resiliency Hub Road Show at POL after worship on December 7! This is important for all of us to think about for our own personal preparedness, as well as the resiliency of the church space and operations and as a hub for our neighbors. We have been making connections with nearby

neighborhoods and community members as well, in case of an emergency, we can offer a safe space if prepared, so this is a great opportunity for outreach to our community. More details on the Resiliency Hub are on page 5.

Fellowship Committee Updates

It's been a busy November, and here we are ready to begin Advent!

Our usual **potluck Sunday** will be celebrated with a cookie exchange. Bring an extra dozen to share.

On **December 10**, after Holden Prayer service, plan to join us for hot chocolate and treats.

Laughing Lutheran ladies will meet at Peggy, Linda and Adrian's home for a Christmas party on the 16th. Thank you ladies!

I speak for our committee in thanking the Swanson family and the extended Warner family for their gifts of gratitude. It was our honor to be part of your memorials.

Kathy Metzger

Space Reorganization

Thank you to Tammy Taylor and her family for their work on updating our narthex and library spaces. Council approved this move at their October meeting.

This change makes our narthex more inviting, utilizes a classroom space to make our library more usable, while also creating more comfortable fellowship hall seating!

Make sure you check out these exciting changes!



Pastor's Press Cont.

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

These acts of generosity prepare our hearts for Christ just as surely as any hymn or candlelight service. When we give of ourselves, we join God's work of breaking into the world with grace.

So, as we journey through these four weeks, may we embrace both the quiet discipline of waiting and the joyful practice of giving and doing good works.

Let our waiting shape us into people who hope steadfastly and let our giving shape us into people who love generously.

Come, Lord Jesus.

In Christ's peace, **Pastor Sena**

Angel Tree 2025

We will once again be collecting toiletry items for patients residing at **Rivercrest Post Acute** care facility in Oregon City. The requested items are non-drying body washes and shampoos, conditioners, and body lotions, especially those for dry skin. There is no limit on size. Nothing is too small or too large!!!! Please begin bringing these items to the church on **Sunday, November 30** and place them under the Angel Tree. We will continue collecting items through Sunday, **December 21**.

In addition to the toiletries, Peace by Piece quilters will again be donating 20 lap quilts to the care home. All items will be delivered to the facility before Christmas Day.

Our donations last year were greatly appreciated, and the toiletry items were consumed within 3½ months. Thank you for continuing to support this local community outreach!

Angel Tree Protocol

There will be angel **53 tags on the tree** corresponding to the number of Rivercrest residents, and boxed Christmas cards will be available on a small table near the tree. Please **take a tag** from the tree and then **choose a Christmas card**. Write a brief personal message in the card and sign the card as "the congregation at Prince of Life Lutheran Church." Then, place the card in the provided receptacle below the table. **You may simply discard the angel tag or place it in the card.** It is up to you. You may write as many cards as you wish. Please remember to remove 1 tag from the tree for each card that you write as this helps me keep track of how many cards have been written.

Questions?

Contact Melissa Martenson via phone (503-631-4569, landline) or email melissa.martenson@yahoo.com.

Advent Preaching Series

“Imagine Tomorrow: Promises in the Waiting”

This Advent, our preaching series will center on the powerful visions of Isaiah appointed in the Revised Common Lectionary for Year A. Isaiah speaks to a people who are waiting—often in uncertainty, fear, or exile—and yet he proclaims God’s steadfast promises. These ancient words meet us in our own waiting all month long.

Week 1 – Isaiah 2:1-5: The Mountain of Peace

Isaiah paints a picture of a world where nations stream to the mountain of the Lord, tools of war are reshaped into instruments of life, and God’s Word teaches us to walk in His ways. We begin Advent with this vision of hope: God is drawing the world toward God’s peace. In our waiting, we walk in the light of the Lord.

Week 2 – Isaiah 11:1-10: A Shoot from the Stump of Jesse

Into the ruins of a broken kingdom, Isaiah promises a new Branch—full of wisdom, justice, and righteousness. The Messiah brings harmony to creation itself. During the second week, we explore how God brings life out of what seems cut down, and how Christ’s reign restores what our world has lost.

Week 3 – Isaiah 35:1-10: Joy for the Wilderness

The desert blooms, the weak are strengthened, and the ransomed return with singing. Isaiah gives a vision of redemption that transforms even the driest places. In the third week of Advent, we look for signs of God’s joy breaking into our wildernesses and renewing our courage.

Week 4 – Isaiah 7:10-16: A Sign of Emmanuel

God gives a sign—a child named Emmanuel, “God with us.” As we draw near to Christmas, we hear the promise that God does not remain distant while we wait. God comes into our world, into our struggles, and into our lives. Our waiting ends in the presence of Christ, the God who is truly with us.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

12/3	12pm	Advent Prayer Service
12/10	12pm	Advent Prayer Service
12/10	7pm	Holden Evening Prayer with Fellowship after
12/17	12pm	Advent Prayer Service
12/21	6:30pm	Longest Night Service
12/24	8pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
12/28	10am	First Sunday in Christmas, Pageant and Hymn Sing

Child Care Advocacy Committee Update

Our group met as planned during Giving Thanks potluck on 11/16/25 with 3 members. We discussed the recent start of the New Mexico childcare voucher program. The Childcare Coalition of Clackamas County had not met yet, so we discussed what we thought of the start of universal Childcare Assistance in New Mexico on 11/1/25. In reviewing it we decided that they have a unique funding source that we don't believe exists in Oregon. New Mexico receives royalties and money for leases from both oil and gas production and the mineral excavation industries. They set up a fund to hold all these monies in an investment fund, much like our Mission Endowment Fund, using the interest only to fund education and other important community needs.

When the Coalition of Clackamas County met on 11/17/25, they discussed what has been happening in Oregon.

Two organizations were highlighted, Family Forward and Oregon ASK (Afterschool and Summer Care for Kids). One good idea mentioned was to frame this as a Working Families Issue. This doesn't just advocate something for low income people but for everyone with children. The Coalition pointed out that the main task of the Legislature is to find more sources of revenue to meet the State of Oregon's needs. Providing a better childcare scenario in the state could help do this by increasing the number of tax paying workers.

The Childcare Advocacy Committee will meet again on Sunday 12/21/25 during the Coffee Hour to discuss what we can do as a part of this.

Janet Mann, Childcare Advocacy Committee

Resiliency Hub - Coming Dec 7th

Mark your Calendar - Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) is coming to Prince of Life for their Resiliency Hub Presentation - Dec 7th after worship

What is a Resilience Hub?

Resilience Hubs are developed with and for community members, grounded in the needs and strengths of the surrounding area. Services may include:

- Shelter from extreme weather events
- Distribution of food or meals
- Providing first aid and emergency supplies
- Communication support for responders
- Climate resiliency protections

Beyond emergency support, Resilience Hubs foster local leadership, neighbor-to-neighbor support, and long-term recovery. Faith institutions, like POL, are uniquely positioned to lead in this work. With deep community trust and existing networks, our congregation could play a powerful role in activating local resilience.

EMO's goal is to listen, learn, and explore alignment with your mission and current community service efforts. Talk with Pastor Sena for more information.

Rhythm and News: Updates from our Music Director

The Advent and Christmas Seasons are upon us--how did they come so soon? It's a time for ancient carols and holiday gatherings. At Prince of Life, the sanctuary gets decorated, and the spirit of giving is especially evident. I'm looking forward to my first Christmas here!

Rehearsals are also beginning for two choir offerings, one for the Sunday morning service before Christmas, and the other for the 8pm Christmas Eve worship service. You are invited to join in the fun. We'll rehearse four Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30, beginning on 11/26. If you miss one of

these practices, you'll still be able to learn the music (which may be familiar to some veteran singers), and we'd love to have you with us. Questions? Email me (suzanmusicpol@gmail.com) or tag Lennie or myself to let us know you're planning to join us. This could be a lovely gift to your church family.

May the anticipation and joy of this holy season fill your heart!

Suzan, Director of Music

December Green Planet

A group of young Indigenous kayakers set out to become the first to paddle the entire Klamath River, from source to sea, after the biggest dam removal project in history.

This uplifting film shows what nature can do when we get out of the way.

This will be my last posting for Green Planet. I have learned a lot during this time and I hope you have, too.

Be kind to one another and our planet.
Peace, Carol



Scan to Watch

Love INC's Care Pantry is Low

Love INC is low on many care pantry needs. Needs include:

- Hair brushes
- Cleaning gloves
- Lotion
- Body wash
- Diapers (size 5 only)
- All purpose cleaner

- Laundry soap
- Men's shaving cream
- Q-tips
- Women's shaving cream
- Bleach
- Facial tissues
- Women's razors

Donations can be dropped in the Love INC box in the narthex.

Supporting Our Neighbors (SON) Program

It's that time again for the SON program. We are participating with three other area churches. Milwaukie Presbyterian, Emmanuel Presbyterian, and Unitarian Universalist (Oregon City) to provide hot meals for four houseless families currently living in local motels three times a week, starting in October and going through April. Each of the churches take a two week turn, three times over that period.

At Prince of Life our next week will be the week of January 12th, so there will be a sign up in the Narthex again starting the end of December. No drivers are needed this year, just assistance with making meals.

We always hear from families about how much they appreciate the meals for their families. Thank you for your ongoing support of the program.

Want to help? Watch for the sign up in mid-November or reach out to Karen Steiner at 503-657-4534

The Swanson Family Thanks You!

On behalf of our entire Swanson family, heartfelt thanks, dear friends, for all of the love and caring support that has been extended to us as we have grieved Paul's illness and death and celebrated his life. The countless prayers, cards, calls, texts, hugs and words of encouragement have lifted us up and carried us forward.

It is difficult for our family to adequately express our appreciation for the many ways our Prince of Life family participated in Paul's celebration of life service and reception. Thank you to Pastor Sena for her leadership and support, to the musicians, crucifer, ushers, guestbook hostess, Sarah for creating and printing the bulletins, and everyone who attended the service in person or on-line. We were blessed by your gifts of your time and talent. The reception after the service was so beautifully set up by the Fellowship Committee and served with such an unbelievable array of food and warm hospitality. Thank you to all who helped set up, provide food, served and/or cleaned up afterwards. We are so grateful for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

The Prince of Life family was a blessing in Paul's life and faith and continues to bless our family. May God richly bless each of you.

With deep appreciation,
Mary, Kristen and Matt, Karlynn and Scott, Jon and Jill and families

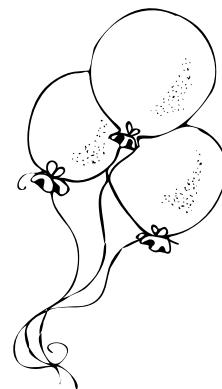
December Celebrations

Birthdays

1 Jade Harris,
Anna-Marie Wood
5 Dan Martin
8 Connie McFarland
10 Sally Worthge
11 Kay O'Dea
15 Zachary Rickey
18 Karlynn Salter
19 Sharon Wilson
25 Tom Rodway
30 Bob Bresky

Anniversaries

16 Kristen & Matt Paschall
30 John & Janet Mann
31 Sue & Bill Robinson



God's Blessings on your celebrations!

December Fellowship Opportunities

**Holden Evening
Prayer with
Fellowship After
12/10**

We'll have hot chocolate
and cookies after the
service. Join us!

**Monthly Potluck
12/14**

Bring Cookies for a
Cookie Exchange
themed Potluck this
month.

**Men's Lunch
12/16**

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.

**Laughing Lutheran Ladies
12/16**

We're having a Potluck at Peggy V.'s
House this month.

**Family Game Night
12/19**

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

December Calendar

	1 OFFICE CLOSED SARAH OUT 4:30 Scouts	2 4:30 Worship Committee 4:30 Scouts	3 10:30 am Romans Bible Study 12pm Advent Prayer 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 5:30 Choir 6:30 Recovery 1	4 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	5	6 9am Backpack Buddies Packing
7 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour 11am EMO Resiliency Hub 6pm Private Event	8 2pm Red Cross Blood Drive 4:30 Scouts	9 10am Material Girls 6 pm Private Event 7pm Council	10 10:30 am Romans Bible Study 12pm Advent Prayer 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 5:30 Choir 6:30 Recovery 1 7pm Holden Evening Prayer	11 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12:30 OC Women's Club 6:15pm Scouts	12 5pm Pancakes with Santa Setup	13 9am Pancakes with Santa
14 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Cookie Exchange Potluck 11am Faith Food 1pm Backpack Buddies	15 4:30 Scouts	16 12pm Men's Lunch @ Wichita 4pm LLL 4:30 Scouts 6pm Gaffney Ln. Assoc. Meeting 7pm Private Event	17 10:30 am Romans Bible Study 12pm Advent Prayer 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 5:30 Choir 6:30 Recovery 1	18 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12pm Backpack Buddies 6:15pm Scouts	19 JAN NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 pm Family Game Night	20 9:30am DAR
21 10 am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour 11:15 Social Justice Com. 6:30 Longest Night Service	22 4:30 Scouts 7pm Private Volunteer Event	23 6 pm Private Event	24 OFFICE CLOSED - SARAH OUT 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 5:30 Choir 8pm Christmas Eve	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i> 	26	27
28 10 am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour	29 4:30 Scouts	30 OFFICE CLOSED - SARAH OUT	31 10am Romans Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal			
		PASTOR VACATION				

Want to invite a friend to one of our special services this season?

Postcards are available in the Narthex!

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