

# The Good News

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

**February 2024**

## **Pastor Robert's Reflections**

Dear fellow children of God,

Being a student of history I often reflect back on the major events that have shaped us. Recently I have been reflecting on the Civil War. Many broad themes shaped that bloody period in American history, and while slavery, states' rights, racism, and power were all involved to various degrees in the reasons why war broke out, I believe they were all secondary to the real reason behind it all, fear.

In the north they feared that succession was a threat to the government's power. In the south they feared the change that freeing the slaves would bring to their economy. This fear that pervaded the nation would manifest itself in the anger, frustration, hate, and bitterness that resulted in the deaths of nearly 650,000 people between the years 1861-1865.

Since then there have been several more movements that have brought fundamental change to our society including the Industrial Revolution, Woman's Suffrage and, Civil Rights movement. More recently the Black Lives Matter and Me Too movements are continuing to change the way we think and act as I write this.

Every movement throughout history has affected the world in both positive and negative ways pushing us forward in often unexpected directions. Black Lives Matter and Me Too continue to grow and affect our society in various ways, what the end results of those movements are we have yet to know, but things are changing, and that can cause fear and discomfort.

Alongside these broader cultural movements in the US, the church is changing, and this has caused its place in society to begin shifting. Once upon a time churches were the center of

local communities yet due to a variety of reasons we have seen local churches sidelined in many areas. Some of these reasons are beyond the control of local churches as the communities change and cultural sensibilities evolve around them causing the local congregations to lose their place in the hearts of the residents.

Unfortunately, some of the reasons why this is happening is the fault of the churches themselves. As they may have abused their power, were not welcoming to newcomers, or failed to progress in order to meet the needs of the communities around them. One of the main reasons is that we live in an increasingly more diverse population where people's beliefs are more and more varied. This can cause a lot of fear and anxiety amongst those who are living through these changes because not only does it affect the church but it also affects the local community as they grow or shrink.

As the world changes all around us, it is important to remember that God is with us in the midst of the change. Even though there may be some rather large bumps in the road God's presence continues to surround us. Even though there are many loud people out there spreading anger and division regarding the changes in our society, many more are out there calling for peace and reconciliation.

A sign of hope that I see throughout our national church body, the ELCA, is that while in many churches the numbers may be shrinking, the level of faith is rising. This has resulted in many young people in this nation who may have drifted away from churches coming back, inspired by the level of faith they see turned into action. Since it is no longer socially dictated that individuals should go to church, those who do go are there of their own

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Call Committee Update

Our process was delayed while we waited to interview a final candidate, and unfortunately they chose a different path accepting a non-ELCA position.

Now, not finding a high level of consensus among us and after many hours of discernment and consideration we have released the pastors we considered. It is important for us as a congregation that we do our best to get it right.

What does this mean? After my conversation with the Synod office, I feel confident more names will come our way but was told that could be two to four weeks away.

Be assured that once we have the names, we are ready to proceed. That being said, we are unlikely to have a permanent pastor in place before April.

Please continue to pray for the call committee and our congregation. It is important that we remain hopeful.

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



## Backpack Buddies Volunteer Needed

Starting this coming June, I am going to be taking some courses. This will be a three year commitment on my part. I am looking for someone to take care of Gaffney Lane! I am going to continue to work behind the scenes with correspondence and paperwork for Backpack Buddies, but I need to reduce my commitment for this duration.

If you would like to consider taking over this for a while, please let me know.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration,

Cathy Warner  
Email me at [clwarner1@gmail.com](mailto:clwarner1@gmail.com)

### Other Openings

POL seeks an additional **AV Tech** to operate our sound board and Zoom two Sundays each month.

Applicants should contact the church office at [PLLC@PrinceofLife.org](mailto:PLLC@PrinceofLife.org).

**A new council member** is needed to fill the vacancy left by a recent resignation. Interested members should contact Council President, John Mohlis at 503-784-1566 or email [mohlisconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:mohlisconsulting@gmail.com).

## February Pulpit Supply

Here is a list of pastors lined up to guide us through February:

Feb. 4 - Tim Herzfeldt-Kamprath

Feb. 11 - Chris Nolte

Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday – Colleen Nelson

Feb. 18 – Colleen Nelson

Feb. 25 - Joel Schmitz

March 3 - Jennifer Beil

Of course, services will continue at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14. Pastor Colleen Nelson will preach and preside at NOON. We will have a full service – lessons, music, sermon, communion and imposition of ashes. Please join us at NOON. At this printing, I don't know if Zion is having an Ash Wednesday service in the evening or mid-week Lenten services of any kind.

Last year for our mid-week Lenten services we moved Wednesday Bible Study up to noon. The council feels we cannot pay a pastor to come and preside over a mid-week Lenten services. We have decided to move our Bible Study up to noon again and use a Lenten devotional. Everyone is welcome

I hope you will still join us for the services and support the pastors I have lined up. It is good to hear different voices and points of view coming from the pulpit. Please sign up to volunteer for these services. The pastors all receive a bulletin before their Sunday to preach. I'm sure it is disheartening and troublesome to see the word NEEDED next to so many volunteer positions.

See you in church!

Linda Wiese  
Worship Chair

## Election Coming up! Annual Meeting in April!

Please consciously ask yourself how you can serve. Yes, serve. That's what Christians do – we serve.

There are many openings on Church Council, Mission Endowment Fund Committee and Nominating Committee.

Would you like to be on the ballot?

Contact our nominating committee:

Joyce Johnson [joyce1282013@gmail.com](mailto:joyce1282013@gmail.com)

Rebecca Harms [raharms@gmail.com](mailto:raharms@gmail.com)

Tyleen Conrow [tyleendream46@gmail.com](mailto:tyleendream46@gmail.com)

Linda Wiese [ladyscout80@gmail.com](mailto:ladyscout80@gmail.com)

## Prince of Life Constitution

The Church Council is seeking volunteers to assist with updating the church's constitution and bylaws.

The ELCA requires that every congregation revise its constitution every three years. PLLC is past due for an update.

If you enjoy detail oriented tasks, then we are looking for you. It would be great to complete this task before a new pastor is installed to serve this congregation.

If you are willing to help out, please contact council secretary, Kevin Hormann, at [kevinh@oregon.com](mailto:kevinh@oregon.com) or 541-604-4631.

## Pastor Robert's Reflections

(Continued from page 1)

choosing and therefore share a much deeper faith in Christ's word than people did twenty years ago. There are many things in this world to be afraid of but remember God is in the midst of the change, all we have to do is listen to where God is leading us.

As the people of Prince of Life continue to go through change, I hope that you keep your eyes, ears, mouth, nose and especially your hearts open to wherever it is that God is calling you in the next weeks, months, years and, decades to come.

Thank you for all the love and support that you have all shown to my family and I over these past sixteen months, your community will always be a part of our hearts as we move on to our next adventure.

God is with you all and I am sure that whoever is called to serve this community will be just as blessed as I have been by this wonderful community.

Peace and Blessings  
*Pastor Robert Neubert*



## Creation Care for Kids: An Invitation

In these times of national controversy and international conflict, what is happening to the children? In the power clash of the Israeli-Palestinian or Russian-Ukrainian wars, we see only too clearly how even young human life is tragically disregarded!

Yet, before we blame the world-out-there for a child's death and the destruction of the homelife in which the next generations are raised, let us look to our own habits of consumption and elimination for the source of the problem.

Here in the United States, toxic waste—dumped into the rivers and oceans of our planet or spread in chem trails through our skies—mirror our lack of concern for maintaining a nurturing matrix—not only for green and growing things but also for the youth who one day will steward life's garden.

Worse yet, the vacant eyes and listless glance of the kids who have to steal or prostitute their bodies in order to survive tell the same story.

A faith-based, peaceful response to environmental devastation must intimately involve the child, who lives and breathes within and among all of us. Let us rediscover the ingenuous earth-learning that is to be found, yes, even in the Bible!

Creation Care will be meeting Sundays February 25, March 17, April, 21, May 19, June 2 during 2024, Prince of Life Sunday School will engage in an experiential, experimental exploration of "Creation Care for Kids."

Through a Biblical lens that using Godly play stories and nature activities and folk hymns, we will ponder and wonder about God's green earth and the mysteries of the solar system, the elements—water, fire, wind, soil—plants, bugs, animals, and human beings.

For the Love of All Creation,  
*Bonnie Faehre-Cochise*

## **Bunk Bed Ministry Update**

From Dan Hughson and Annie Sakaguchi

Prince of Life Lutheran Church Bunk Bed Ministry Team has been busy since the new home for the ministry became fully operational in August of 2023.

The first bunk bed was delivered to a foster family with 6 children all under 8 years old living in Damascus. Since October, the bunk bed team has built and delivered 5 bunk beds including a loft bed for a 16 year old girl and a single bed for a 3 year old boy. We are currently building a second bunk bed for a father of 5 children.

As the Bunk Bed Ministry Coordinator, I will send out another notice to our contacts to let them know, we are accepting referrals.

We are grateful for Lyle Wiese, John Mann, Jerry Cook, Kevin Hormann, Bert Cranston, Dan Hughson, John Mohlis, Pastor Robert and Joe Sawtell for building and/or delivering the bunk beds. The building team meets every Wednesday from 10 to 12 at Dan Hughson's barn and all are welcome.

Peace by Piece Quilters have provided the quilts and pillow covers for each recipient. The families are very appreciative for not only the beds but for the beautiful quilts, pillows, pillow covers, stuffed animals, and toothbrushes/paste..

This ministry is the only service of this kind available in Clackamas County . The cost of building a bunk bed is about \$280 in materials. The congregation can help by donating to the Bunk Bed Ministry fund, purchasing pillows, donating new stuffed animals, joining the building team and/or the Peace by Piece Quilters.

Questions and suggestions, please contact:

Dan Hughson, Building /Delivery Team Lead  
[dhughson55@gmail.com](mailto:dhughson55@gmail.com)

Annie Sakaguchi, Bunk bed Ministry Coordinator - [mcsak@comcast.net](mailto:mcsak@comcast.net)

## **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



## Fun and Fellowship at Prince of Life



### All-Church Potluck February 11th

February 11th we will have our All Church Potluck. The theme will be Mardi Gras as we prepare for Fat Tuesday and Lent.

Gumbo will be provided! Some food needed: king cake, Hush puppies, cooked greens, jambalaya, Mac and cheese

There will be a sign up in the Narthex

### Retired Men's Lunch February 13th

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 February 16th

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, February 16th, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. See you then!

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

## Green Planet



Artificial Intelligence (AI), is it good or dangerous? There has been a lot of press on both sides. The following article shines a light on how AI can help with climate change.

<https://www.npr.org/2024/01/02/1218677963/ai-climate-change-solutions-fires-lithium-methane>

Be good to yourself, your neighbors and the planet Peace,  
*Carol Bresky*

## Mission Endowment Fund



Hello My Church Family,  
Ever wonder how else you can financially support  
Prince of Life?

Have you considered making a donation to the  
Mission and Endowment Fund? All sorts of gifts  
are possible: Cash, stocks, bonds or mutual  
funds, real estate, life Insurance policies.

Deferred gifts in the form of annuities, retirement  
plans, trust or life insurance agreements. The  
Mission Endowment Fund is then used to support  
different charitable organizations: Shelters,  
Scholarships, Family Retreats, Youth ministry  
and many more. If you have questions please  
contact a member of the Mission Endowment  
Fund Committee.

You can now make a donation to the Mission  
Endowment Fund online. Go to the Prince of Life  
website. Scroll down to "Ways you can support  
this work", Scroll thru to Mission Endowment  
Fund.

*Sue Stark*

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

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

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.

### Financial Status Report

#### General Fund gift totals for 2023

General Funds received for 2023:	\$226,021.52
Expense Budget for 2023:	\$230,000.00
General Funds received/Expense Budget for 2023:	(\$3,978.48)

Total 2024 pledges: 38 compared to 38 pledges for 2023.

Total pledged to the General Fund: \$163,864.00 compared to \$157,146.00 for 2023.

Thank you so much for turning in those pledge cards! If you find you are still in pos-  
session of a pledge card, I will happily continue to accept them.

Dan Hughson, Financial Secretary

## **Our Far-away Friend Is Still Close to Our Hearts**

I received a call from Gaye Cole on Dec. 30th and she asked me to thank you so much for all of the cards and photographs that she received over the last few weeks from her Prince of Life family.

She especially enjoys the photographs and seeing how much families have grown! Gaye and I talked briefly about Christmas services and she recalled the time my 10 year-old son Lars slipped out through the window by the organ during one service. (I don't think Lars would enjoy being reminded of that now!)

The news in those letters from Oregon keeps us all close in Gaye's heart and mind, and she wishes us all a blessed new year.

Lennie Torgerson

Mother asked me to send a note to Prince of Life and thank you for faithfully sending her the church newsletter every month.

I also send a personal thank you to those who send her notes, cards and letters. She reads them all and is very appreciative.

She is more frail these days and requires more care but still has a spark. She is in the perfect place to see her great grand babies, living with Kristi and John in Missouri. I spend a week or two there as often as I can.

I send my love to you all and pray for God's peace, Joy and love surround you as we anticipate the birth of Christ.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas filled with light of God's love,

Love, Kerry Todd (Gaye Cole's daughter)

### **Children, Youth & Family Service Committee**

We did receive the cost estimate for Tim Richard, the ClackCoKids architect, to conduct a feasibility study for a building on our site that fits the programming needs of ClackCoKids and Prince of Life. We have been asked to participate in paying for this study. At our January meeting, the committee decided that we need a few questions answered first before we can agree to participate in the cost. Chief on the list is whether this project is needed enough to be a priority for ClackCoKids to devote the time needed to continue developing it, if the feasibility study shows that the project is feasible.

*Janet Mann,*  
Chair

### **Helping Other People Eat**

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.



## February Sermon Scriptures

Revised Common Lectionary for February 2024

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 4, 2024  
Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

Transfiguration Sunday –  
February 11, 2024 –  
2 Kings 2:1-12 –  
Psalm 50:1-6 –  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6 –  
Mark 9:2-9

Ash Wednesday –  
February 14, 2024 –  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 –  
Psalm 51:1-17 –  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 –  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent –  
February 18, 2024 –  
Genesis 9:8-17 –  
Psalm 25:1-10 –  
1 Peter 3:18-22 –  
Mark 1:9-15

Second Sunday in Lent –  
February 25, 2024 –  
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 –  
Psalm 22:23-31 –  
Romans 4:13-25 –  
Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

## February Confirmation Classes

February 4, 11:30 at Prince of Life  
February 11 TBA  
February 16, 11:30 at Prince of Life

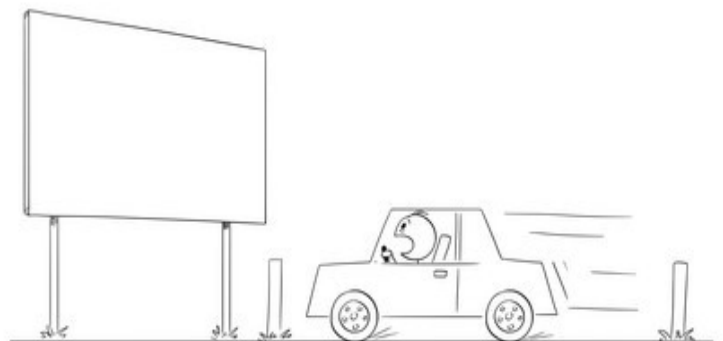


## February Celebrations!

### Birthdays

1	Mark Tabert
2	John Mann, James Tyler
6	Cole Lais,
7	Scott Beyer, Julie Schedler
8	Isaac Graves
10	Michelle Silva, Ruth Woodbury
12	Chris Hulett
13	Eileen Tabert
15	Benjamin Anderson, Vetta Turner
16	Amy Ellsworth, Heather Wood
17	Nora Bowyer
20	Margaret Murphy, Sydney Thornhill
21	Janet Mann
23	Cheryl Herrington
26	Ora May Millington
28	Mike Larson

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



The fact that there's a highway to hell and only a stairway to heaven says a lot about anticipated traffic.



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



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## 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 Meyers Road

PO Box 264

Oregon City, OR 97045

Phone: 503-657-3100

Website: [www.princeoflife.org](http://www.princeoflife.org)

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

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.**

# Prince of Life Lutheran Church

# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed.	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p><b>For the most up-to-date calendar information, visit our website: <a href="https://princeoflife.org/">https://princeoflife.org/</a></b></p> <p><b>Please submit your articles for the March newsletter by February 15.</b></p>				<p><b>1</b> 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>
<p><b>4</b> 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom &amp; Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 2 pm Private Event</p>	<p><b>5</b> 4:30 Private Event 6 pm Private Event</p>	<p><b>6</b> 6 pm Private Event</p>	<p><b>7</b> 10 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery</p>	<p><b>8</b> 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 12:30 Oregon City Woman's Club 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>9</b> 6 pm Scrap-Booking</p>	<p><b>10</b> 9 am Scrap-Booking</p>
<p><b>11</b> 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom &amp; Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Coffee Hour 11 am All Church Potluck</p>	<p><b>12</b> 4:30 Private Event</p>	<p><b>13</b> 10:00 am Material Girls 6 pm Property Committee Mtg. 7 Council Mtg 6 pm Private Event</p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Noon - Ash Wednesday Worship 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery</p>	<p><b>15</b> 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>16</b> 6:30 pm Game Night</p>	<p><b>17</b> 9:30 DAR</p>
<p><b>18</b> 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom &amp; Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 11:30 Confirmation Class @ POL 2 pm Private Event</p>	<p><b>19</b> 4:30 Private Event 6 pm Private Event</p>	<p><b>20</b> Noon Retired Men's Lunch @ Wichita Pub 7 pm Child, Youth &amp; Family Service Com. On Zoom 7 pm Private Event</p>	<p><b>21</b> Noon Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery</p>	<p><b>22</b> 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>
<p><b>25</b> 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom &amp; Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Annual Budget Meeting</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 6 pm Private Event</p>	<p><b>28</b> Noon Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery</p>	<p><b>28</b> 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>		

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