

# The Good News

## Pastor's Press: Epiphany and a Lifetime of Learning to Trust

The season of Epiphany is a season of light. It celebrates God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ—the light made known to the nations, to the Magi from afar, to John at the Jordan, and to ordinary people who encountered God's grace in unexpected ways. Epiphany reminds us that faith begins not with our searching for God, but with God graciously making Himself known.

From a Lutheran perspective, Epiphany also speaks powerfully to the importance of *faith formation* throughout our lives. Faith is not something we "finish" at baptism, confirmation, or any particular milestone. Rather, faith is a *living relationship*, continually formed and re-formed as God's Word and promises meet us in new seasons of life.

The Magi are a fitting image for lifelong faith formation. They do not remain standing at the star's first appearance; they journey, question, worship, and then go home "by another way." Their faith is shaped along the road. In much the same way, God shapes us over time—through study and prayer, through worship

and service, through suffering and joy.

Luther taught that we are *justified by grace through faith*, and that this faith itself is God's gift. Yet even a gift must be nurtured. God uses many means to form us: the hearing of Scripture, the preaching of the gospel, the waters of baptism remembered daily, and the bread and wine that sustain us. These are not only for the young or the new believer; they are for the *whole Church, at every age*.

Epiphany invites us to recognize that God continues to reveal Christ to us in new ways as we grow. A child hears Bible stories and learns to trust God's love. A teenager wrestles with questions and discovers that doubt and faith can exist together. Adults encounter God in vocation, parenting, work, loss, and service. Elders bear witness to a lifetime of God's faithfulness, even as they continue to learn what it means to trust.

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# Council Corner

## January Voters Meeting

Our annual budget meeting is coming up at the end of January. Council will approve a proposed 2026 budget to share after Jan 13 and an informational meeting will be held on the proposed budget during coffee hour on Sunday, January 18, 2026 - please plan to attend if you have questions or feedback. The meeting to vote on the proposed budget will be Sunday, January 26.

## Pledge Cards

We were hoping to get additional pledge information to inform our budget process. Pledge cards have been placed in all mailboxes. Please return to Dan Hughson's mailbox by January 11<sup>th</sup>. If you already did your pledge, blank cards can be put in Sarah's inbox on the Admin Office door.

## Important Dates for our Annual Meeting

1/11 Pledge Cards Due to Dan

1/25 2026 Voters Meeting

1/18 Budget Q & A  
(During Coffee Hour)

## Highlights from Recent Justice Work

In early December we had Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon join us to do their Resiliency Hub Roadshow. Thank you to everyone who joined us to make that event a success.

Indivisible Oregon also joined us for tabling during coffee hour on December 21<sup>st</sup>. They are hoping to utilize our building and find opportunities to engage with PoL in the future. Thank you to Amy and Mike for joining us for Coffee Hour!

## Thank you from Backpack Buddies

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to donate, shop, and pack bags for the special holiday assembly. We packed 500 bags for the Angels in the Outfield holiday event. This assembly would not have been possible without each of our volunteers. Thank you especially to our regular volunteers and those who help on behalf of the Oregon City Woman's Club and the Daughters of the American Revolution. We have all made such a difference in the lives of these children.

Cathy Warner, Director

# Pastor's Press Cont.

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In this season of light, we are reminded that faith formation is not about having all the answers but about returning again and again to the One who is revealed for us.

May Epiphany encourage us to remain learners of the faith, open to God's ongoing work, and confident that the light of Christ continues to shine on us—wherever we are on the journey.

In the light of Christ and with you on The Way,  
**Pastor Sena**

## Epiphany House Entrance Chalking

House blessing is an Epiphany tradition used as a way of blessing all who enter, exit, and dwell in your home. You simply write the number of the new year and the letters **C**, **M**, and **B** in chalk on the door or doorframe. The letters stand for the three traditional names of the Magi in Matthew 2: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters can also be a Latin acronym for “*May Christ bless this dwelling.*”

### ***Liturgy (for Personal/ Home Use)***

Let us pray. O Lord, Almighty God, bless this house that it may become a shelter of health, chastity, self-conquest, humility, goodness, mildness, obedience to will of God for our lives, and thanksgiving to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Upon this house and those who dwell herein may Your blessing remain forever, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The initials CMB also stand for Christus mansionem benedicat: May Christ bless this house.)

The three wise men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar followed the star of God's Son who became man two thousand twenty-six years ago. May Christ bless our dwelling and remain with us throughout the new year. Almighty God, incline your ear. May you bless us and all who are gathered here. Send your holy angel who will defend us and fill with grace all who live here. Amen.

**FINAL INSCRIPTION ON YOUR  
LINTEL SHOULD READ:**

**20 + C + M + B + 26**

## Bunk Bed Ministry Celebration

On February 8<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the creation and distribution of 200 Bunk Beds since the creation of that ministry. What a milestone!

# Epiphany: A Season of Learning and Recognizing What God Is Doing Now

The season of Epiphany invites the Church to open its eyes. After the quiet wonder of Christmas, Epiphany asks us not only to remember that Christ has come, but to recognize who He is and what God is doing through Him—often in ways we did not expect.

In Lutheran theology, Epiphany is not about human discovery so much as divine revelation. God makes Godself known. The star leads the Magi not because they are especially wise, but because God chooses to be found by outsiders. The heavens open at Jesus' baptism not because Jesus needs affirmation, but because God declares, "This is my beloved Son."

Epiphany reminds us that God is revealed precisely where we might overlook him: in a child, in water and word, in bread and wine, in a crucified and risen Savior. As Martin Luther taught, God often works under the opposite—hidden in humility, weakness, and the everyday. Epiphany trains us to recognize God's presence not in what dazzles the world, but in what God promises.

This season also invites us to recognize that God is always doing something new. Isaiah proclaims, "*Arise, shine; for your light has come.*" The light is not only behind us in Bethlehem; it shines ahead of us into places not yet fully seen. In Christ, God continues to bring new life—new faith, new callings, new possibilities for love and service—often right in the midst of familiar routines.

For Lutherans, this "new thing" is never a departure from the gospel but a fresh expression of it. God does not change, but God's mercy meets us anew in each generation, each congregation, and each life. Through Word and Sacrament, the Holy Spirit continually opens our eyes to see where Christ is at work—in our neighbors, in our communities, and sometimes in ourselves in ways we had not recognized before.

As we journey through Epiphany, we are invited to pray for *eyes that see, ears that hear, and hearts that trust*. May we recognize Christ revealed among us, and may we be surprised by the new things God is bringing to light—even now!

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>1/4</b>	<b>10am</b>	Second Sunday of Christmas Guest Pastor: Rev. Tom Hiller
<b>1/11</b>	<b>10am</b>	Baptism of Our Lord Guest Pastor: Rev. Barry Rogge
<b>1/18</b>	<b>10am</b>	Second Sunday after Epiphany
<b>1/25</b>	<b>10am</b>	Third Sunday after Epiphany Guest Pastor: Rev. Carl Hansen

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# Rhythm and News: Updates from our Music Director

It's a New Year ahead! Some people bravely set out with resolutions for the coming months, while others simply celebrate surviving the holidays. I've got to say, I'm probably more in that second group.

I'm most grateful for the people who faithfully serve to support the worship life at Prince of Life Lutheran. Our Worship Ensemble Vocalists: Lyle Wiese, Sue Robinson, Cherry Harris, Lennie Torgerson, Linda Garrett, and Rich Sternberg; and Instrumentalists: Chris Sternberg and Kody La Crosse. Thank you all for your hearts to serve the congregation by leading and accompanying them in the music of worship.

Special thanks as well to Linda for co-leading the Holden Prayer music and to Lennie for an excellent job of choir directing; also to Sally Worthge for creating and executing the Christmas Pageant.

I'm also grateful to the unsung heroes of the tech team that man the sound and computer equipment weekly: Melinda and CJ Salter and Gabe Garcia. Theirs is a tough job, and they mostly get noticed when there's a problem to solve. I'm their #1 fan.

BTW, I'd love to know your favorite worship songs, both hymns and choruses. Email me at [suzanmusicpol@gmail.com](mailto:suzanmusicpol@gmail.com) or drop off a note in my door mailbox at the end of the hallway.

As we begin another year, may you find new and creative ways to praise our Lord and serve those He loves.

Suzan -  
Music Director

## Sunday Supply Pastor Highlights

We are blessed to have some guest pastors joining us in the month of January - how lucky we are to see some fresh faces and get new perspectives while Pastor Sena gets a break!

On January 4<sup>th</sup> we will be joined by Rev. Tom Hiller, a retired local pastor. He will be joining us for the second Sunday in Christmas.

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, we will have Rev. Barry

Rogge joining us to celebrate the Baptism of our Lord.

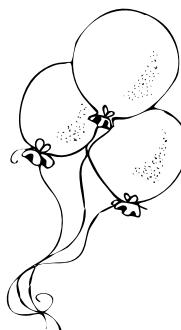
If there is an emergency during Pastor's vacation we have an available local pastor willing to step in. Please contact the office and Sarah will connect you.

At the end of the month we will be trying a 'pastor swap,' with Rev. Carl Hansen joining us on Sunday morning. Pr. Sena will be preaching at his churches in Colton and Macksburg.

# January Celebrations

## Birthdays

- 2 Riley Schedler
- 3 Peggy Vermaas
- 4 Bev Spilseth
- 6 Cherry Harris
- 10 David Wheeler
- 12 Michelle Phillips
- 13 Ben Mohlis
- 15 Annie Sakaguchi
- 20 Aahron Martin-Monise, Denny Metzger  
Melinda Salter
- 21 Paul Schedler
- 22 Katie Fray
- 24 John Anderson
- 26 Cindy Borders, Betsy Packer
- 28 Joyce Johnson
- 30 RayAnne Schedler, Mildred Wasson



## Anniversaries

- 1 Paul & Julie Schedler
- 7 Carole Hallen &  
Connie McFarland

### Red Cross Blood Drive Outcomes

22 Presenting Donors  
19 Total Life-Saving Units Collected  
119% of Goal

These units could save up to 57 lives.

Thank you!

Our next drive is February 9th

*God's Blessings on your celebrations!*

## January Fellowship Opportunities

### Monthly Potluck 1/11

Our regularly scheduled potluck is back. Bring a dish to share.

### Family Game Night 1/16

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

### Laughing Lutheran Ladies 1/20

Location and time TBA for January. Watch our Sunday announcements for more information.

### Men's Lunch 1/20

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.

# January Calendar

				1 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>PR. SENA ON VACATION</b>	2	3
4 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour 6pm Private Event	5 4:30 Private Event	6 4:30 Private Event	7 10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	8 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12:30 OC Women's Club 6:15pm Scouts	9	10 Funeral for Ray Renken 10am
<b>PR. SENA ON VACATION</b>						
11 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Potluck  <b>PR. SENA ON VACATION</b>	12 4:30 Private Event	13 11:30 PEO 6 pm Private Event 7pm Council	14 10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	15 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	16 6:30 pm Family Game Night	17 9:30am DAR
18 10 am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour/ <b>Budget Q&amp;A</b> 11:15 Social Justice Com. 6pm Private Event	19 4:30 Private Event	20 10am Material Girls 12pm Men's Lunch @ Wichita 4:30 Private Event 4:30 Worship Committee 6pm Private Event 7pm Private Event	21 10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1st	22 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12pm Backpack Buddies 6:15pm Scouts	23	24
25 10 am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am <b>2026 Voters Meeting</b>	26 <b>FEB NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 4:30 Private Event 7pm Private Event  <b>SARAH OUT</b>	27 6pm Private Event	28 10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1st	29 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	30	31

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



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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.**

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