

The Good News

The Message: We Are Church

Dear Beloved Siblings in Christ,

Blessings to you in the warmth and the profound love of our Savior. This month, I invite you to reflect on the truth that binds us all: **we are church together.** This is not about a building or a title—it is about our united journey in Christ, where every heart, every life, and every shared struggle forms the living body of our faith.

Our Lutheran heritage reminds us time and again of the *priesthood of all believers*. Each of us is called to serve, to care, and to carry the light of hope in our everyday lives. In embracing this calling, we acknowledge that every voice matters, every hand contributes, and every soul is vital to the flourishing of our community. When we come together—sharing our joys, supporting one another in hardships, and growing in the grace of God—we embody the very essence of what it means to be church.

Understanding that we are church together transforms how we live our faith. It encourages us not only to meet

within these sacred walls but also to extend our fellowship into our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and to our families and friends. Our shared mission is to be instruments of Christ's love, compassion, and justice in a world in desperate need of healing. When we stand united, we become a powerful testament to God's grace, a collective beacon of hope to those around us.

Let us, therefore, recommit ourselves to a community where acceptance, respect, and mutual care guide every interaction. May we celebrate our differences as strengths and recognize that it is through our unity—a tapestry of unique experiences and gifts—that the full beauty of God's kingdom is revealed. Together, we have the power to uplift, inspire, and transform lives.

In the spirit of true fellowship, let us seek ways to collaborate, to serve, and to spread the message that we are, indeed, church together.

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Council Corner

At the council retreat, we came up with short and long-term goals. Here are the short-term goals and please feel free to reach out to anyone on council with questions or to discuss.

1. Explore the current committee structures and charges and propose recommendations for alignment with current needs, mission and focus of our community. Committee chairs, council liaisons and Pastor Sena are meeting to start this process.

2. Increase the number and variety of volunteers serving during worship. We will do this through communicating the needs and value of service, encouraging

attendance at quarterly Sunday Servant education sessions, and one-to-one orientations.

3. Improve communications between council and congregation. Council members will be calling congregation members over the summer to share about our work and listen to what members of the congregation want council to know.

4. Telling the story of Stewardship. A short-term Task Force is being formed to develop plans for a year-round stewardship focus. Any one interested in joining this important work should contact Pastor Sena.

Sarah Wheeler
Council Secretary

Mission Endowment Applications Available

The Mission Endowment Fund is accepting applications for grant recipients. If you are involved in a ministry or non-profit that could use funding consider applying. Applications can be found in the church office or on the bulletin board in the narthex. If help is needed in filling out the form, the committee is here to help!

The Mission Endowment Committee decision will be made in October. If you know of a need in our community, please encourage them to apply.

Susan Rodway
Mission Endowment Committee

July Ministry Highlight: Project Start Right

The team coordinating Project Start Right for this year met in early May to begin the process of ordering school supplies for the 2025-2026 school year. **Last summer this ministry distributed basic back-to-school supply packs to almost 1500 children** of low income families and children in foster care in Clackamas County, grades K-12, thanks to the gifts of money, time and prayers of many people. This project is sponsored by Prince of Life Lutheran Church, other area churches, service groups in our communities, and the Oregon Department of Human Services. We continue to ask for only monetary donations in lieu of donated supplies. This process has streamlined the assembly process, allows for a more certain inventory, has helped secure the quality of the supplies, and keeps prices as low as possible. We have been able to use our church facility to store and organize these purchased supplies and assemble the packs.

To support this year's effort, please send your donation to the following address:

Start Right, PO Box 952, Oregon City, OR 97045

Your entire monetary donation will be used to purchase school supplies. A tax-deductible receipt will be returned to you upon receipt of your gift.

The Start Right team will also be requesting volunteers to help assemble the supply packs the week of August 11-14, 2025. More information on the schedule for that week will be forthcoming.

Thank you in advance for your support of this needed and meaningful ministry. This worthy effort helps so many community children start the school year right!

Your Project Start Right team members - Lori Downs, Cherry Harris, Kristen Paschall, Julie Schedler, Bev Spilseth, Mary Swanson, Pauline Vorderstrasse, Nancy Wheeler, and Lyle Wiese

Update from Oregon City Backpack Buddies

Year 17 is done ... and we could not have done it without the amazing volunteer crew!

Please join me in thanking the following people:

Inventory Director: Nancy Wheeler
Shopping Experts: Margaret Murphy, Mary Jo Tyler, and Phyllis Hines
Assembly Crew: Bev Spilseth and the Oregon City Woman's Club

Delivery Crew: James Tyler, Chris Sternberg, Karen Steiner, Lori Downs, Phyllis & John Hines, Kathy & Doug Wood

Support Crew: YOU!!

Thank you everyone for supporting our mission to feed children in need!
We delivered as many as **38 bags each week** and just over 200 each week with all seven churches. Thank you for your continued support and commitment!

Civic Life and Faith: From the ELCA

In 2019, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly called for a statement on civic life and faith, the relationship of church and state, and related matters. This month, the 2025 Churchwide Assembly will be voting on the resulting statement.

Social statements are the ELCA's primary documents to address significant social issues and questions of contemporary life. These statements are developed by task forces, using an established process of study and widespread participation across the church to guide theological and moral deliberation.

The task force responsible for this statement have finished their work and the ELCA Church Council voted in April to recommend the statement for consideration at the July Churchwide Assembly.

Full details on the Social Statement, including the text to be considered in July are available on the ELCA website.

Abridged Task Force Timeline

2019

August: Authorization to develop the social statement

2020

June: Task Force seated

November: Initial Task force meeting

2021

Task Force meetings, with a focus on listening and study throughout the year.

2022

Continued Task Force Meetings

November: Study Published

2023

Continued Task Force Meetings

December: Draft Social Statement published and mailed to congregations. Public comment began

2024

Continued Task Force Meetings

September: Public comment period ended

2025

January: Final Task Force Meeting

February: Proposed Social Statement and Implementing Resolution released and reviewed by Conference of Bishops.

April: Recommended by ELCA Church Council

July: Churchwide Assembly will consider for adoption



Learn More

Oregon Child Care Issues: From the Social Justice Committee

After a brief hiatus during a busy May, the Social Justice Committee on Oregon Childcare Issues met June 8th after services. Nine people attended. We reviewed what is happening in Clackamas County, Oregon, and at the recent OR Synod Assembly.

We brainstormed ideas about what we could do to help garner support for Childcare Issues. We decided that 2 attendees would contact churches in our Cluster to see if they had Social Justice Committees and what they are working on; then ask if they would be interested in working with us as Lutherans on the Childcare Issue. Also, another member will contact the Children's Commission of Clackamas County (ClackCoKids-The nonprofit that runs the Head Start program in Clackamas County),

since we have worked with them while we were looking into the feasibility of a facility on our property. We are not thinking of that now, but want to see if there is anything we can do to help them given that Federal Head Start funds have recently been stopped at least temporarily.

If this is an issue you are interested in or just want to find out what is happening, join us for our next scheduled meeting on July 20th after worship, downstairs in a corner of the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour.

Janet Mann and Peggy Vermaas

Questions? Call Janet or Peggy for more information or to get involved.

Green Planet

By 2100, the UN estimates that the world's population will grow to just over 11 billion people. Architect Vishwan Chakrabarti wants us to start thinking about how we'll house all these people -- and how new construction can fight climate change rather than make it worse. In this visionary talk, Chakrabarti proposes a "Goldilocks" solution to sustainable housing that exists in the sweet spot between single-family homes and towering skyscrapers.



**Scan to watch the
talk**

Summer Lectionary: Year D -

A supplement to the RCL developed by T.M. Slemmons

We will be highlighting some lectionary choices from what is called Year D. As many of you might know, many mainline churches, including ELCA Lutheran ones, use the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) to guide choices of scripture readings across a three-year cycle, A, B and C. You can well understand that much of scripture is left out and therefore Year D was developed to help resist the reliance on this select “canon within the canon” and its potential pitfalls and blindspots. As it stands now, the RCL covers only about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the canon and often leaves out more difficult selections. Although we could add a full Year D to our rotation, we can’t do that mid-year. So, I have chosen to take two months in the summer to “sprinkle” it in and see how we go.

During July and August, I will take selections from Year D for our Sunday readings. Often, we will have less

We Are Church Continued

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

May our actions reflect our shared commitment to Christ and our desire to build a community where every member finds their purpose and feels the love of our Creator.

In Christ's abiding love and service,
Pastor Sena Norton

readings because the selections might be longer or could be less familiar and therefore, we might want to take more time with them. It will be an exciting time for us as a worshiping community. Here is a listing of the readings for July and August (August will highlight some of the Apocalyptic Discourse of Jesus and similar texts from other books of the Bible.

July 6	Eph 4: 17 – 24, Matt 13:10 – 17
July 13	1 Tim 4: 1- 16, Matt 15: 10 – 20
July 20	Mal 3: 5 - 18, Matt 9: 27 – 34
July 27	Psalm 3, Luke 11: 24 – 36
Aug 3	Jer 7: 1 – 5, Matt 24:1 – 8
Aug 10	Dan 12: 1 – 13, Matt 24: 9 – 14
Aug 17	Deut 4: 32 – 40, Matt 24: 15 – 22
Aug 24	Gen 18: 20 – 33, Matt 24: 23 – 35
Aug 29	Gen 6: 11 – 22, Matt 24: 36 – 44, 51

In September, we will move into a lectionary which will include texts from throughout the Bible that address the 5 T's of stewardship: time, talent, treasure, tissues, and testimony. Passages will include the Parable of the Talents, the Widow's Mite, the creation story and the incarnation of Christ. Stay tuned, it's going to be a wonderful journey!



Hiring Update

Our new Director of Music Ministry, Suzan Garau, will start on September 2nd, 2025. Until then, Pastor has lined up guest musicians for the duration of the summer.

Stewardship: A Living Expression of Faith

In the Lutheran tradition, we understand stewardship not merely as something we do, but as an expression of who we are in Christ. It's a spiritual practice that flows from grace—a response to God's boundless love, rather than a requirement to earn it.

Martin Luther taught that all of life is to be lived in response to the Gospel. That means stewardship goes far beyond pledges or committees. It touches every part of our daily lives: how we use our time, how we nurture our talents, how we care for creation, and how we support one another as the body of Christ.

In a world that teaches ownership, we practice trust. In a culture that values independence, we recognize our interdependence. As stewards, we are called to reflect God's generosity by being generous with what we've been given—because everything belongs to God, and we are its caretakers for a time.

In worship, we confess our faith. In stewardship, we *live* our faith.

As we move through this green season, consider how you might intentionally embrace stewardship as a holy rhythm: an act of devotion, a moment of gratitude, a practice of hope. Whether it's sharing a skill, contributing to ministry, or simply reaching out to someone in need—each act is a part of God's unfolding grace in the world.

Let us walk together as grateful stewards, rooted in grace and overflowing with love.

If you feel called to be part of the group who will begin to work to design a stewardship campaign for our community – please reach out to Kristen Paschall or Pastor Sena with your interest.

Stewardship Task Force – Are you interested?

The Support Committee is forming a Stewardship Task Force (short term focused work group) to help design a revitalized stewardship campaign that will integrate into every aspect of our faith community and run year-round. This will not be the traditional – ask, receive pledge cards and collect – this will be much more and grounded in the real life contexts we are living in right now!


Cruise - in & Picnic
Coming in September

More details to come in August newsletter.

July Celebrations

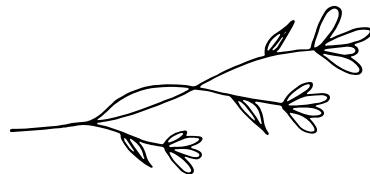
Birthdays

- 7 Carole Hallen, Patty Johnson
- 12 Neville Hicks, Paul Rickey, Jr.
- 14 Parker Hulett, Kathy Metzger,
Brandon Phillips
- 15 Karla Hicks
- 17 Amy Bello
- 20 Ruth Reno
- 26 Greg Anderson, Susan Robinson
- 27 Brooklynne Lewis
- 28 Linda Monise, Nancy Wheeler
- 30 Irene Darling
- 31 Dollie Sommer

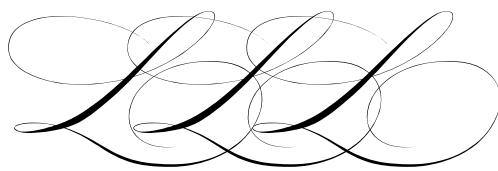
Anniversaries

- 4 Liv & Troy Sherwood
- 12 Rex & Liz Hagans
- 13 Margaret & Bryan Bowyer
- 14 David & Sue Stark
- 31 Kevin & Benda Haunschild

God's Blessings on your
celebrations!



Thank you to all the
Fathers who joined us
on Father's Day



Laughing Lutheran Ladies
The Laughing Lutheran Ladies will have their first meeting on 7/15 at Corner 14 Food Carts. Join us for happy hour filled with fun and fellowship. The new fellowship group will plan to share happy hour or a meal each month.

COMING UP AT PRINCE OF LIFE

July 6 th	Faith Food (after Service)
July 13 th	Worship Service with Holy Communion
July 20 th	Worship Service with Holy Communion
July 27 th	Faith Food (after Service)

July Calendar

		1	2	3	4	5
		10am Hebrews Bible Study 4pm Music Rehearsal 4:45 Navigators USA 6:30 Recovery 1	9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts			
6 9:30am Worship Sanctuary & Zoom* 10:30 Faith Food Series	7 4:30 Scouts	8 6pm Private Event 7pm Council Meeting.	9 10am Hebrews Bible Study 4pm Music Rehearsal 4:45 Navigators USA 6:30 Recovery 1	10 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 9am Social Justice & Learning 12:30 OC Women's Club 6:15pm Scouts	11 12pm Scrapbooking Group	12 9am Scrapbooking Group
13 9:30am Worship Sanctuary & Zoom* 10:30am Coffee Hour	14 4:30 Scouts	15 10am Material Girls Quilt Group 12pm Men's Lunch @ Wichita 6pm Private Event 7pm Private Meeting	16 10am Hebrews Bible Study 4pm Music Rehearsal 4:45 Navigators USA 6:30 Recovery 1	17 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	18 6:30 pm Family Game Night	19
20 9:30am Worship Sanctuary & Zoom* 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:45 Social Justice Com.	21 4:30 Scouts 7pm Private Volunteer Event	22 6pm Private Event	23 10am Hebrews Bible Study 4pm Music Rehearsal 4:45 Navigators USA 6:30 Recovery 1	24 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	25	26
27 9:30am Worship Sanctuary & Zoom* 10:30am Faith Food Series	28 4:30 Scouts 7pm Private Volunteer Event	29	30 10am Hebrews Bible Study 4pm Music Rehearsal 4:45 Navigators USA 6:30 Recovery 1	31 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts		

*Service recordings available on YouTube after Noon

Fellowship Highlights

Monthly Potlucks will resume this Fall

Join us for Coffee Hour after service during the summer instead.

Men's Lunch July 15th

3rd Tuesday each month. Men are invited to meet in Oregon City's Wichita Pub at 12pm for food and fellowship. Need a ride? call Harlow Jacobson at 503-656-1616.

Family Game Night July 18th

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

PRINCE OF LIFE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
13896 S. 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.



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