

The Good News

Pastor's Press: A Life of Faith: The Gift of Our Seasoned Saints

One of the greatest blessings of our congregation is the presence of our *seasoned members*—those who have walked with God through many chapters of life. In a world that often rushes past aging as if it is something to fear or overlook, the Church is called to see differently. In the community of faith, growing older is not a fading away—it is a deepening, a ripening, and a continuing witness to God's faithfulness through every season of life.

Scripture reminds us that faith is not a moment, but a journey. The Christian life is not meant to be lived in quick stages, as if we "graduate" from discipleship once we reach a certain age. Instead, faith is formed over decades—through joy and sorrow, through change and challenge, through raising families, working jobs, navigating loss, enduring hardship, and learning again and again what it means to trust God.

The elders among us carry a sacred gift: memory. They remember the stories of God's faithfulness not only from the pages of Scripture, but also from their own lived experience. They remind us that God's promises are not theoretical - they are real. Their lives bear witness to the truth that God continues to provide, forgive,

restore, and sustain.

In many ways, our "well versed in life" members are spiritual anchors in the life of the congregation. Their prayers shape our ministry more than we may ever fully know. Their quiet acts of service—often unseen—hold together the daily life of the church. Their steady presence in worship proclaims something powerful: that God is worthy of praise in every season of life.

Our beloved aging adults also play a vital role in shaping younger generations. Whether through conversations, encouragement, mentoring, or simply showing up with kindness and consistency, they help teach what it looks like to walk with Christ over time. A younger person may learn theology in a class, but they often learn perseverance by watching someone who has remained faithful through hardship. They learn hope by seeing someone who has grieved and still trusts. They learn grace by witnessing someone who has stumbled and still clings to Christ.

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Council Corner

Council approved the request from the Property Committee to remove the large hazardous pine tree located on the right front corner of the church lot. Removal of the tree is tentatively scheduled on June 4, pending city permit approval.

The council is planning another annual retreat for team-building and goal setting. Saturday, July 25, 10 - 2pm is the scheduled date. It will be facilitated by Pastor Sena and will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Additionally, Council held their officer elections for the year. The following individuals were elected or appointed:

President - Annie Sakaguchi
Vice-President - Paul Rickey

Audit Committee:
Marsha Gross - 2029

Appointment:
Dan Hughson - Financial Secretary, 2027



Pastor's Press Continued

COTINUED FROM P. 1

The Church needs this wisdom. The community needs this witness.

Psalm 92 says, *"They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to show that the Lord is upright."* What a beautiful image: faith that continues to bear fruit even in later years—not because everything is easy, but because God is still at work.

As your pastor, I want to say clearly to those in their later seasons of life: you matter. Your presence matters. Your voice matters. Your stories matter. Your prayers matter. Your faithfulness matters. You are not on the sidelines of ministry—you are part of its very heart.

And for all of us, younger and older alike, you remind us of this truth: faith is a lifelong journey. We never stop learning. We never stop growing. We never stop being called deeper into God's grace. God is not finished with us yet.

May we continue to be a congregation where every generation is valued, where wisdom is honored, where our cherished elders are supported and celebrated, and where we walk together—young and old—following Jesus, who calls us to abundant life.

With gratitude for each of you,
Pastor Sena Norton

Encountering the Story of God: Why Use the Narrative Lectionary

One of the most important things we do each week as the Church is gather around the Word of God. We come with busy lives, full calendars, and hearts carrying both joys and burdens—and yet, in worship, God meets us through Scripture. God speaks, teaches, comforts, challenges, and renews.

From June through the end of the church year we will be following what is called the **Narrative Lectionary**, and I'd like to share why this approach to Scripture can be such a meaningful and impactful way to encounter God's Word together.

Unlike some lectionary cycles that move quickly between many different passages each week, the Narrative Lectionary invites us to experience the Bible as a **continuous story**. Week by week, we follow the sweeping narrative of God's work in the world—beginning with creation, moving through the calling of Israel, the voices of the prophets, and ultimately arriving at the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This approach helps us remember something essential: **the Bible is not a collection of disconnected readings, but one unfolding story of God's love and redemption.**

As Lutherans, we believe Scripture is central to the life of faith. Martin Luther taught that God comes to us through the Word—alive and active, not merely as information, but as proclamation. When we follow the Narrative Lectionary, we are reminded that we are not just reading ancient history; we are hearing the living Word of God that shapes our lives today.

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Another gift of the Narrative Lectionary is that it allows us to spend time with parts of the Bible we might not otherwise hear in worship. Some stories and passages can easily be skipped over in other reading cycles, yet they are deeply important for understanding God's character and the depth of God's promises. The Narrative Lectionary helps us become more biblically grounded, giving us a fuller understanding of Scripture over time.

It also helps us see how the Old Testament and New Testament connect. Too often, we may hear the Old Testament as separate from the gospel. But the Narrative Lectionary helps us recognize that the story of Jesus does not come out of nowhere—it is the fulfillment of God's covenant promises from the very beginning. We begin to see how God has been at work all along.

In addition, there is something spiritually powerful about moving through Scripture together as a congregation. When we spend several weeks in a section of the Bible, we begin to remember what came before. The themes build. The questions deepen. The story becomes familiar in a way that forms us over time. Worshipers often find themselves thinking, "I remember that part from last week," or "This connects with what we heard earlier in the season." That is discipleship happening in real time.

COTINUED ON P. 5

Peace of Mind Planning Workshop

An End-of-Life and Funeral Planning Class for Adults & Seniors

Have you ever wondered if your family knows what you would want at the end of life? Planning ahead is one of the greatest gifts you can give to those you love.

Join us for a thoughtful and practical workshop designed to help you organize important information, reflect on your faith, and make funeral and end-of-life wishes clear and easy for your family to follow. This class will walk participants through a simple planning guide and offer time for questions, conversation, and support.

This is not a morbid topic—it is a faithful and loving act of preparation that brings peace, clarity, and comfort.

Topics include:

- Contact and emergency information
- Medical and healthcare wishes
- Funeral preferences and service planning
- Scripture and hymn selections
- Important documents and practical details
- Leaving a message for loved ones

Date: Sunday, June 28th

Time: After worship (11:30 start time)

Led by: Pastor Sena

All participants will receive a **planning packet** to complete and take home. **Please sign up in advance** so we can prepare enough materials.

For questions or to register, contact: Pastor Sena or contact Sarah in the office

“Let all things be done decently and in order.”

— 1 Corinthians 14:40



Next Red Cross Blood Drive Scheduled for 6/8

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).

Rhythm and News:

Updates from our Music Director

Greetings! Thank you to those of you who have returned the Hymns & Songs Request forms. There are great choices included, and I'm looking forward to working them into appropriate upcoming services! If you forgot or have a recently acquired favorite, I'd be glad to accept and add yours to the roster.

Summer is almost here, with school ending and family vacation season beginning. It's "Ordinary Time" in the liturgical church, but we're going to enjoy it in a not-too-ordinary way, with

the upcoming outdoor service, some new songs and hymns, special music and a couple of weekends where our Worship Singers sing from the congregation to inspire everyone to worship boldly and freely.

If you'd like to become more involved or share your musical gifts this summer, please connect with me and let me know!

**Suzan
Music Director**



Upcoming Memorials

Betsy Packer Memorial will be at **Prince of Life** Sunday, **6/7 at 1pm.**

Ruth Woodbury Memorial will be at **Zion (OC)** on Monday, **6/22 at 2pm.**



Why Use the Narrative Lectionary? Cont.

CONTINUED FROM P. 3

The Narrative Lectionary also supports preaching and teaching in a way that strengthens faith formation for all ages. Children, youth, and adults are hearing the same overarching story, and it becomes easier to talk about Scripture at home, in Bible study, or in conversation with one another. We are truly learning the story of God as a community.

Ultimately, the goal of the Narrative Lectionary is not simply to increase Bible knowledge. The goal is to help us **encounter Christ**. Scripture always leads us to Jesus—the Word made flesh—and invites us into deeper trust, deeper grace, and deeper hope.

Each week, as we hear these stories proclaimed, we are reminded that this is also our story. We are part of God's continuing work in the world. We are being shaped, called, forgiven, and sent.

My prayer is that as we walk through this year of readings together, you will experience Scripture not as something distant, but as something living—God's Word spoken into our lives, again and again.

May the Holy Spirit open our hearts to hear, believe, and be renewed by the story of God's saving love.

In Christ, **Pastor Sena**

June Celebrations

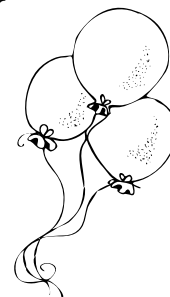
Birthdays

- 1 CJ Salter
- 4 Rebecca Harms
- 6 Barbara Renken
- 9 Steve Sakaguchi
- 10 Adrian Garcia
- 11 Traci Anderson, Larry O'Dea
- 16 Bert Cranston
- 18 Aidyn Worthy
- 19 Barb Haberlach, John Mohlis
- 21 Tyleen Conrow,
Nathan Wheeler
- 22 Debbie Mohlis
- 27 Kody LaCrosse



Anniversaries

- 3 Chris & Molly Hulett
- 8 Nancy & Harlow Jacobson,
Lyle & Linda Wiese
- 9 Alana and William Morgan
- 10 Chris & Richard Sternberg
- 11 Annie & Steve Sakaguchi
- 12 Larry & Margaret Murphy
- 15 Larry & Kay O'Dea
- 17 Jerry & Judy Cook
- 20 Bert & Carol Cranston
- 21 Dave & Nancy Wheeler
- 24 Scott & Karlynn Salter,
Michelle & Steve Silva



God's Blessings on your celebrations!

June Fellowship Opportunities

Welcome to summer, Prince of Life family.

We begin with **outdoor worship service on June 7th.**

Other fellowship for the month includes:

All Church Potluck 6/14

We're celebrating Father's Day with Pies for Guys. If bringing a pie is 'scary', cobblers work too!

Family Game Night 6/19

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

Men's Lunch 6/16

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.

LLL Happy Hour 6/16

We'll meet at 4pm at Corner 14.

June Calendar

	1 4:30 Private Event	2 8:45 am Gleaners 4:30 Private Event	3 10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	4 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	5	6
7 Council Installation & Outdoor Worship 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 1pm Betsy Packer Memorial 6pm Private Event	8 1pm Red Cross Blood Drive 4:30 Private Event	9 8:45 am Gleaners 4:30pm Worship Comm. 5pm Private Event 7pm Council	10 10am Bible Study 4:45pm Navigators 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	11 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12:30 OC Women's Club 6:15pm Scouts	12 12pm Scrapbooking Group	13 9am Scrapbooking
14 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Potluck	15 4:30 Private Event	16 8:45am Gleaners 10am Material Girls 12pm Men's Lunch @ Wichita 4:30 Private Event 6 Private Event 7 Private Event	17 10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	18 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	19 6:30 pm Family Game Night	20
21 10 am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour 11:15 Social Justice Childcare Comm 6pm Private Event	22 4:30 Private Event 5:30 Sequoia Crossing HOA Meeting 7pm volunteer event	23 8:45 am Gleaners 5 Private Event	24 10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	25 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12pm Backpack Buddies 6:15pm Scouts	26	27 JULY GOOD NEWS DEADLINE
28 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour 11:30 Peaceful Planning Workshop	29 4:30 Private Event	30 8:45 am Gleaners				

Our most up to date calendar is available on our website at princeoflife.org/calendar

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