

The Good News

Pastor's Press: Rooted in Christ, Growing Together

Dear Church Family,

As we enter this new season together, I want to share a bit about the ministry focus I will be carrying with me throughout the coming year. At the heart of it is something simple, but deeply important: **strengthening relationships**—with God, with one another, and with our wider community.

This year I hope we can grow in a spirit of connection and renewal. That means making sure our congregation is not just a place we attend, but a community where people are truly known, valued, and cared for. It also means creating space for deeper faith, honest conversation, and renewed joy in the life of the church.

You can expect to see a strong emphasis on the foundations of our Lutheran life together: **worship centered in the Word of God and the Sacraments**, along with meaningful pastoral care, prayer, and spiritual growth. Alongside this, we will be building a culture of encouragement — where we notice one another, reach out when someone is missing, and share in one another's joys and struggles.

Throughout the year we will also be offering simple opportunities for fellowship, faith formation, and listening—gatherings designed not to add busyness, but to strengthen

belonging. In an aging congregation, it is especially important that no one feels forgotten, overlooked, or alone. We will continue to place special care and attention on those who are homebound, unable to attend regularly, or are in need of some encouragement to return, so they remain a vital part of our church family.

My hope is that we will continue to grow into a congregation marked by warmth, trust, and shared ministry. This is not something a pastor can do alone—it is something we build together as the Body of Christ. Every prayer offered, every hand extended, every invitation made, every act of kindness matters.

Thank you for being part of this church and for the many ways you already serve and love. I'm looking forward to what God will do among us in the months ahead.

In Christ's peace,
Pastor Sena

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Council Corner

Annual meeting and Elections results:

The 2026 Annual Meeting was well attended. We had a full house. Great discussion on where Prince of Life is headed and what we'd like to see. Retiring Council Representatives were thanked: Terms ended for Judy Cook, Bev Spilseth and Peggy Vermaas.

Here are the results of the elections: Katie Fray, Peggy Vermaas and Nathan Wheeler were elected to Church Council. Their terms are 3-year terms and will end in 2029.

Cherry Harris and Susan Rodway were elected to the Mission Endowment Fund Committee. These are 2-year terms and they end in 2028.

Linda Garrett and Janet Mann were reelected to Nominating Committee; terms ending in 2028.

Rich Sternberg and Rebecca Harms have volunteered to attend the 2026 Synod Assembly and been duly appointed

Thanks to all who ran and all who attended the Annual Meeting.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee and all the nominees for their willingness to be servants of Prince of Life Lutheran Church.



Coffee or Lunch With Pastor

There's sign ups for both in the narthex. select your preferred date and pastor will follow up with you to schedule a time and place.

We hope you'll take this opportunity to connect!



Relational Ministry Plan: Year Overview & Highlights

In the coming year, our congregation will be focusing intentionally on a **relationship-building ministry**—strengthening our connection with **Christ, one another, and our community**. This plan is designed to deepen trust, increase encouragement, and help every person feel seen, valued, and supported as part of the Body of Christ. This ministry will be woven into the rhythms and opportunities we are already used to and your engagement with it will be key to its success.

Our main focus within this ministry will be on three core areas:

1) Worship Rooted in Word and Sacrament

Each week we will continue to gather around God's promises through Scripture, preaching, prayer, and Holy Communion. Worship will remain the heart of our shared life, and we will look for ways to strengthen joy, welcome, and meaningful participation. There will be opportunities to engage in new ways to worship and new openings to participate weekly.

2) Pastoral Care and Congregational Connection

A major priority this year will be staying connected with members—especially those who are homebound, isolated, going through difficult seasons, engaging in deep faith journeys or simply wanting to try something new. This will include visits, phone calls, prayer, opportunities for connection, encouragement, and engagement, all so that no one feels forgotten, left behind or disconnected. This will not just be a role for me as your pastor but is an open door for all of us in this beloved community to walk through.

3) Fellowship, Listening, and Faith Formation

Throughout the year we will offer simple opportunities for conversation and growth, including seasonal small groups, coffee gatherings, and listening sessions. These will be designed to build belonging and spark fresh interest in faith and “being church” without overwhelming busy schedules.

Highlights to look forward to include:

- seasonal fellowship events, shared meals and dynamic worship occasions
- opportunities for Bible study, adult education and faith conversations
- intentional support for homebound members by our visiting team
- “holy conversation” listening gatherings to share hopes and needs
- a renewed focus on gratitude, encouragement, and volunteer appreciation
- community-facing moments of welcome and mission and expansion

This plan is not about creating more busyness—it is about helping us grow as a church family marked by **warmth, trust, and shared ministry**.

As we move into this new season together, I want to share a little about the weekly rhythm I'll be following as your pastor. My hope is that this plan will help strengthen our relationships, deepen our faith, and keep our congregation connected through Word, Sacrament, and meaningful pastoral care.

Each week I will be focusing on three key areas: **worship preparation, pastoral care, and time with all of God's people**.

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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

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

Rhythm and News: Updates from our Music Director

Every time I pull into the Prince of Life parking lot, I thank God for Peggy and Lyle, because the building and the grounds are so beautiful. I even look forward to reading the Sarah-inspired sign—lol!

Thank you to the many people who have expressed interest in and appreciation of the music we've been using in worship. Having Mary Swanson on organ at Easter and Joel Schwartz on guitar this past weekend was such a joy. I look forward to meeting and including others of you in worship also. Get those callouses and emboucheres ready, and let me know if you'd like to be included.

Another way you can contribute to the worship is by letting me know about your favorite hymns and songs. We'll have bulletin inserts soon, so you can jot down the information and return it to me or to Sarah in the office. Over the next few months, I'll try to work as many as I can into the appropriate worship sets. It's a way I can continue to learn about the styles and variety of worship that inspires this church family and brings us reverently and joyfully into God's presence.

May the beauty of the season fill your souls!

**Suzan
Music Director**



Relational Ministry Plan Cont.

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Tuesdays and Thursdays will be my **flex remote or by appointment work days**, set aside especially for sermon writing, worship planning, prayer, phone calls, and behind-the-scenes ministry work that requires quiet focus or off campus connection. Mondays and Wednesdays will be my primary **in-person days**, when I'll be available for visits, meetings, office admin work and time with members in the church building and in the community. Wednesdays in particular will be a strong day for **Bible study, homebound visits, and personal connections**.

Fridays will be my regular **day off**, a Sabbath day for rest and renewal. Protecting that day will help ensure I can bring my best energy and attention to worship leadership, pastoral care, and the shared ministry we are building together.

You will also see me making a consistent effort each week to reach out through **phone calls, visits, coffee / lunch conversations, and handwritten notes**, especially to those who may be isolated or unable to attend regularly. This is one of the most important parts of pastoral ministry—staying connected as the Body of Christ.

Most of all, I want you to know this: you are not simply members on a list. You are people I care about deeply, and I want to be present with you in the joys and burdens of life. If you would ever like to visit, talk, pray, or simply check in, please reach out. I would love to connect.

Let us continue to grow together—rooted in Christ, strengthened by worship, and supported by the care we share with one another. Thank you for being part of this congregation and for walking together in faith.

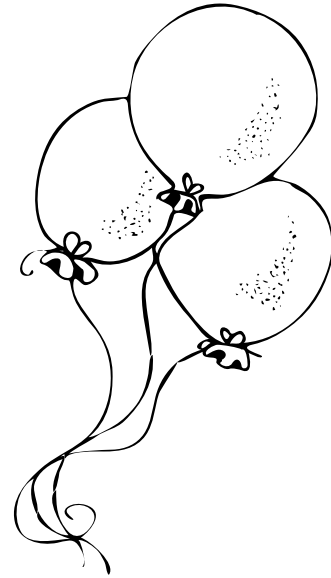
May Celebrations

Birthdays

- 3 Alexis Schaefer
- 5 Ryan Paschall
- 13 Carol Cranston
- 14 Gary Johnson, Linda Wiese
- 15 Kristen Paschall
- 24 Mary Jo Tyler
- 25 Liz Hagans

Anniversaries

- 3 Bob & Carol Bresky
- 25 Kurt & Lennie Torgerson



God's Blessings on your celebrations!

May Fellowship Opportunities

All Church Potluck 5/10

Since it's Mother's Day, bring your mom's favorite dish or dessert to share!

Men's Lunch 5/19

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.

Family Game Night 5/15

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

LLL Happy Hour 5/19

Location for this month is Gladstones (270 Portland Ave, Gladstone, OR).

May Calendar

					1	2 10am 4H Presentation
3 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 6pm Private Event	4 4:30 Private Event	5 8:45 am Gleaners 11:30am PEO 4:30 Private Event	6 10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	7 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	8 2pm Red Lodge Transition Services Benefit Set up	9 All Day Red Lodge Transition Services Benefit
10 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Potluck	11 4:30 Private Event	12 8:45 am Gleaners 3:30pm Project Start Right Meeting 6pm Private Event 7pm Council	13 10am Bible Study 4:45pm Navigators 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	14 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12:30 OC Women's Club 6:15pm Scouts	15 6:30 pm Family Game Night	16 9:30am DAR
17 Pr. Swap with Colton 10 am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour 11:15 Social Justice Childcare Comm 6pm Private Event	18 4:30 Private Event	19 8:45am Gleaners 10am Material Girls 12pm Men's Lunch @ Wichita 4:30 Private Event 6 Private Event 7 Private Event	20 10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	21 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	22	23 10am Red Cross Training: Stop the Bleed/ Hands Only CPR
24 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION & PENTECOST 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour	25 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 4:30 Private Event 7pm Private volunteer event	26 JUNE GOOD NEWS DEADLINE 8:45 am Gleaners 5 Private Event	27 10am Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	28 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12pm Backpack Buddies 6:15pm Scouts	29	30
31 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour						

PRINCE OF LIFE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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