

The Good News

Pastor's Press: The Value of the Common Lectionary

Happy November and blessings as we move squarely into fall and turn back our clocks! It is a full month for us here at Prince of Life and after we celebrate Christ the King Sunday on November 23rd, we will transition into a brand-new church year. Our next cycle will be "Year A" in the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). The RCL is more than a schedule of readings—it is a shared rhythm of Scripture that shapes our worship, teaching, and daily discipleship. In our congregation, it connects us to the wider church, grounds us in the whole counsel of God's Word, and helps us hear the Gospel afresh each week.

Rooted in Scripture, Shaped by Tradition

The Revised Common Lectionary is a three-year cycle of readings developed by an ecumenical group of scholars and church leaders in the early 1990s. Each Sunday, it offers us:

- An Old Testament reading that connects us to God's covenant promises.
- A Psalm that gives voice to prayer and praise.
- A New Testament epistle that teaches and exhorts the church.

- A Gospel reading that centers us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Each year emphasizes one of the synoptic Gospels—Matthew (Year A), Mark (Year B), and Luke (Year C)—with John interwoven throughout. This ensures that over three years, we hear the breadth of the biblical story, not just our favorite passages.

Why We Use It:

1. Unity with the wider church

church – On any given Sunday, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and many others are hearing the same texts. This reminds us that we are part of the *one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church*.

2. Balance of Law and Gospel

Gospel – The lectionary prevents us from cherry-picking texts. We hear both the *hard words of God's Law* that convict us and the *sweet promises of the Gospel* that set us free.

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Council Corner

Tammy Taylor joined our October meeting to share her ideas for beautifying the indoor spaces of the church. Tammy and family have energy and gifts to share and are moved to make the space reflect the welcoming nature of the congregation. The goal at this point is to make the narthex more welcoming and open up the fellowship hall, by swapping some of the library furniture and the narthex furniture, and moving the bookcases to one of the unused Sunday School rooms to create a reading room for our community.

There will not be a cost to any of the proposed ideas, and nothing will be thrown away, just rearranged. Council is excited and supportive of Tammy moving forward with these ideas. So look for some refreshed spaces in the future - **Thank You Tammy!**

Fellowship Committee Updates

November is looking like a busy month for Prince of Life!

Your Fellowship Committee is honored to be helping with the memorial service for Paul Swanson and continue to support the family.

Giving Thanks Potluck will be celebrated on November 16. Please bring a favorite dish to go with the turkey we will provide.

Laughing Lutheran Ladies will meet at Kissin Kate's Saloon in Beavercreek on November 18...4pm as usual.

Happy and blessed Thanksgiving to all,
Kathy Metzger

November Fellowship Opportunities

Family Game

Night

11/21

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

Monthly Potluck

11/16

We're Celebrating Thanksgiving this Month!

Men's Lunch

11/18

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.

Laughing

Lutheran Ladies

11/18

Happy Hour at Kissin' Kate's Saloon, 4pm.

Pastor's Press Cont.

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

3. Formation over time – By following the church year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost), the lectionary immerses us in the story of salvation again and again.

4. Preaching and teaching discipline

– It challenges pastors and congregations to wrestle with the whole of Scripture, not just the familiar or comfortable parts.

How It Shapes Our Life Together

- **In worship:** The readings guide our hymns, prayers, and preaching, weaving a coherent theme each Sunday.
- **In study:** Bible studies and devotionals often follow the lectionary, allowing us to dig deeper into what we've heard proclaimed.

- **In daily discipleship:** Families and individuals can read the week's texts ahead of Sunday, preparing hearts to receive God's Word.

An Invitation

The lectionary is not meant to be a rigid rule but a gift. It is a way of letting Scripture set the agenda for our life together, rather than our preferences or trends. As Lutherans, we confess that **God's Word is living and active**—and through the lectionary, that Word comes to us in season and out of season, always pointing us back to Christ crucified and risen for us.

So, as you hear the readings each week, I invite you to listen with expectation: *What is God saying to us today? How is Christ being revealed? Where is the Spirit calling us to trust, to repent, to rejoice, and to serve?*

Using the Lectionary At Home Weekly

Want to prepare your heart for Sunday worship? Here are some simple ways to live with the week's readings:

- **Read Ahead:** Look up the appointed texts early in the week. Read them slowly, maybe even out loud.
- **Pray the Psalm:** Use the psalm as your morning or evening prayer. Let its words shape your own.
- **Spot the Connections:** Notice how the Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel readings speak to one another. Where do you see God's promises fulfilled in Christ?
- **Talk Together:** Share a verse or theme with your family, a friend, or small group. Ask, "What does this show us about God's grace?"
- **Carry It With You:** Choose one verse to memorize or write on a card. Let it accompany you through the week.

Simply Giving Program Updates

The Simply Giving program for automated electronic giving to Prince of Life has been very successful and used by nearly one-half of our congregation and by visitors as well. I am writing to let you know that it now offers the option to cover the transaction costs of doing business electronically. Credit card fees are anywhere from 3-4% of the transaction and electronic bank withdrawal fees are just under 1%. Up to this point Prince of Life has paid the fees from the gifts given. Those fees totaled just under \$2,100 over the last 12 months. We now have the ability to allow the donor to cover those fees. The total gift, including the fees, will be tax deductible and included in your statements. This is totally optional and one can continue just as they have been giving through Simply Giving though, after reflection, one decides to cover the fees charged, then it is just a matter of recreating the contract with Vanco, our Simply Giving administrator. This can be done by finding the "Donate Now" portion of the Prince of Life website at princeoflife.org. Once in the Donation portion of the site, then log in or create your own personal credentials to enter your personal account.

From here, one must cancel the prior transaction agreement and recreate it adding a click in the box, "optional transaction fee coverage".

I am happy to help with this, but I am unable to click the optional box without your log in password. I can cancel your current giving routine, and I am able to add a new transaction, but I am unable to click the optional fee coverage tab as it is only offered on new transaction requests made through the POL website and a personal log in username and password is needed for that.

Again, users of Simply Giving are not required to do anything to continue their current giving practices. The fee coverage is totally optional for each donor.

Thank you so much for your generous offerings through the years in keeping Prince of Life financially strong and able to minister to the community.

Dan Hughson
Financial Secretary
503-310-1016 call/text
dhughson55@gmail.com

Pledge Cards Available Now

Your Stewardship Task Force is working to reimagine what stewardship looks like here at PoL.

A Stewardship series happened in September and we did not include 'Pledge Cards' as part of our Fall series.

If you still would like to complete a 'Pledge Card' for 2026, they are available on the credenza in the Narthex.

Social Justice Committee Update

We had our Cluster Tea on September 20th as planned. Unfortunately, we had only one person attend who was not a member of our congregation. It was interesting to hear about the group that she was affiliated with. They offer support to groups working with and providing care to migrants. They write letters to these groups in the Metro area and thank them for the work they are doing. Many of us wrote a thank you letter and she included them with the letters written from others.

We had multiple leaders of our ministries present their report of what their group was doing.

It included Bunkbed Ministry, Backpack Buddies, Start Right, SON Ministry, Childcare Committee, Piece by Piece Quilters, and Climate Resilience. This gave acknowledgment to each of these groups on the importance of what they are doing. We will meet after service on Nov 16th. Join us for some brainstorming. I am hoping I will attend another meeting of the Childcare Coalition of Clackamas County by that time.

Janet Mann, Childcare Advocacy Committee

Resiliency Hub - Coming Dec 7th

Mark your Calendar - Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) is coming to Prince of Life for their Resiliency Hub Presentation - Dec 7th after worship

What is a Resilience Hub?

Resilience Hubs are developed with and for community members, grounded in the needs and strengths of the surrounding area. Services may include:

- Shelter from extreme weather events
- Distribution of food or meals
- Providing first aid and emergency supplies
- Communication support for responders
- Climate resiliency protections

Beyond emergency support, Resilience Hubs foster local leadership, neighbor-to-neighbor support, and long-term recovery. Faith institutions, like POL, are uniquely positioned to lead in this work. With deep community trust and existing networks, our congregation could play a powerful role in activating local resilience.

EMO's goal is to listen, learn, and explore alignment with your mission and current community service efforts. Talk with Pastor Sena for more information.

November Green Planet

This month's Green Planet is dedicated to Dr. Jane Goodall, the world's most celebrated primatologist and one of the most influential environmental voices of the past century, who died at the age of 91 on October 1, 2025.

For decades, she traveled extensively, giving lectures and raising awareness about conservation, climate change, and ethical treatment of animals. The article linked in the QR Code contains four lessons from Dr. Goodall.

Take care of yourselves, each other
and our fragile planet
Peace, Carol



"I do believe there is a window of time when we can at least slow down climate change and loss of biodiversity. But only if we get together and take action now.

And without hope we will fall into apathy and do nothing. Then we are doomed." – Dr. Goodall's 2025 Earth Day Message

Family Game Night Reminder

Family Game night is the 3rd Friday of each month. For November it's on the 21st -put it on your calendar and plan to attend.

There's a potluck at 6:30 and usually games until 8:30 or so. Bring a game or not. Play a game or just eat and visit. We play Dominoes, Farkle, Yahtzee, and a few other old fashioned games. If we have enough people, we can play Bunco! Speak to one of us (above) if you want more information.

Need a ride? Speak to Lyle or Linda Wiese or John or Janet Mann.

HOLIDAY CRAFT

FAIR

Get a jump on your holiday shopping at Zoar Lutheran Church's holiday craft fair.

**Saturday,
November 8
9am-3pm**

Crafts, Jewelry, Baked Good, Homemade Lefse, Candy, Preserves, Quilts and more!

WANT TO VISIT LONDON AND PARIS IN THE SPRING?

Cathy Warner will be leading a trip through EF Tours on March 20th for an 11 day trip.

If you are interested in attending, contact Cathy at cwarner1@gmail.com.

They will visit many of the well known sites on this trip.



Rhythm and News: Updates from our Music Director

It's been almost two months since my arrival at Prince of Life, and I have been so blessed to begin to know not only how the services are designed (it's been a long time since I've been in a liturgical church), but who the wonderful people are that make up this worship family. I've been impressed by the congregation's enthusiasm for the music of worship and by the gifts that many of you offer to make it happen. It is a joy to service plan with Pastor Sena and to work with the worship singers and tech team that so faithfully serve on Sundays.

Many thanks to Sandi Nolte (organ) and Lennie Torgerson (choir director) for making our Reformation Sunday music powerful and inspiring.

Heading into the Advent Season and Christmas, there are many opportunities to include instrumentalists and music pieces that will make this holy season rich and memorable. Some of the choir projects will require only a couple of rehearsals, while others will probably be more ambitious. Please let me know if you can make occasional Wednesday rehearsals (5:30-6:30) later in November. If there are able guitarists, bass players, or orchestral instrumentalists, I would love to meet you and see if we can include you in some of the season's music. Lots of possibilities!

Finally, I hope your November is filled with songs of joy and hope!

Suzan, Director of Music -

Stewardship: Going Beyond the Financial

Stewardship includes our treasures - but also our time and talents. What are your talents? Did you ever consider how helpful you could be if you volunteered during worship?

Can't give a speech, but you can read? Sign up to be a Reader. Are you a helpful person? Sign up to be an Usher. Want to work behind the scenes? Help with communion preparation and cleanup. Feel a sacred connection to the Eucharist? Help serve it as a Communion Assistant.

Please let a member of Worship Committee know of your interest. We can share more about any of these roles, then you can decide how involved you want to be.

Worship Committee Members include: Judy Cook, Melissa Martenson, Lennie Torgerson, Linda Wiese.

You can also speak to a reader, usher, worship assistant or altar guild member to learn more.

Backpack Buddies Holiday Giving

For the past few years, Backpack Buddies has participated in the Christmas holiday giving in conjunction with Angels in the Outfield. We would like to put together bags for this event again. Each bag costs around \$5. The program will take as many bags as we can feasibly put together. Last year, we gave around 1,100 bags.

We could also use shoppers and assemblers for this event. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Warner at c1warner1@gmail.com.

Thanks!

Cathy

Mission Endowment Fund Grants

In the month of October the Mission Endowment Fund was able to distribute grant money. We were able to give \$2000 to Camp Lutherwood. The money will be used to update the campfire area. It is so exciting to be able to grant money to this organization. The campfire area will be used by many. A little info on the Mission Endowment Fund. The money distributed is the interest on the fund. The principal is never touched. So as the fund grows so does the interest amount. Thus making it possible for Prince of Life to donate more money. I encourage you to donate to the Mission Endowment Fund. Help grow the fund and the giving.

Sue Stark
MEC

JOINING US ONLINE? DON'T MISS OUT ON FELLOWSHIP TIME!

Don't forget that you have the opportunity to connect with others attending online after the YouTube service is over on Sundays.

The Zoom link for fellowship is provided in the weekly email along with the streaming link. Don't forget to join us!

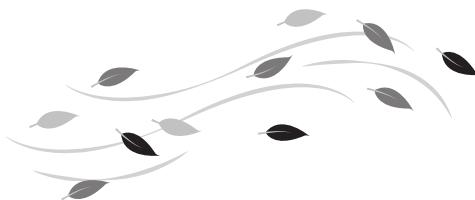
Supporting Our Neighbors (SON) Program

It's that time again for the SON program to start. We are participating with three other area churches. Milwaukie Presbyterian, Emmanuel Presbyterian, and Unitarian Universalist (Oregon City) to provide hot meals for four houseless families currently living in local motels three times a week, starting in October and going through April. Each of the churches take a two week turn, three times over that period.

At Prince of Life we will start on December 1st, so there will be a sign up in the Narthex starting in mid-November. No drivers are needed this year, just assistance with making meals.

We always hear from families about how much they appreciate the meals for their families. Thank you for your ongoing support of the program.

Want to help? Watch for the sign up in mid-November or reach out to Karen Steiner at 503-657-4534



Thank you from H.O.P.E!

"Thank you, thank you, folks at Prince of Life," a message from those at H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Eat) at the Presbyterian Church on Linn Avenue. Lyle and I take the contents of the shopping cart to them once a month or so and the folks manning the H.O.P.E. food pantry there are always incredibly grateful for your generosity. The Presbyterian Church houses one of five pantries in Oregon City. At the Presbyterian Church they are feeding 110 families each week, even after the cutbacks from the Oregon Food Bank. Keep up the good work. Lyle and I will continue to ferry the non-perishables and convey their thanks to you.

- Linda Wiese

We will be doing a special 'Paperclip' offering on November 9th in support of H.O.P.E.

If you are new to POL, you might wonder what a paperclip offering is. It is a wonderful tradition we have here for sudden or urgent needs. The money offering with the paperclip (or through a regular offering directed to HOPE) will be separated and donated directly to HOPE to use to purchase the food they have a need for to deal with increased demand.

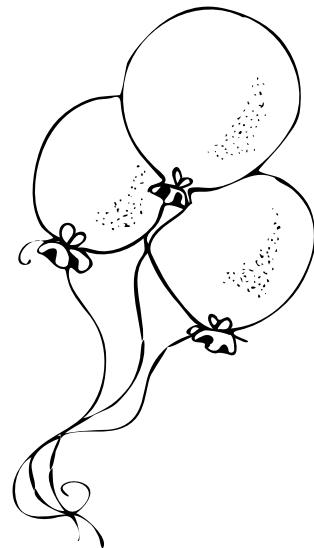
November Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Tammy Taylor
- 4 Matt Phillips
- 7 Christine Sternberg
- 11 Sarah Wheeler
- 12 Cathy Haase
- 16 Lori Downs
- 17 Steve Silva
- 20 John Rizzo
- 23 Karen Steiner
- 26 Noah Fray
- 28 Scott Worthge
- 29 Kathy Hughson
- 30 Liana Haywood

Anniversaries

- 4 Gary & Joyce Johnson
- 26 Doug & Kathy Wood



God's Blessings on your celebrations!

Thank You for Your Kindness and Support

Dear Fellowship Committee and Congregation,

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Fellowship Committee for all the care and effort you put into setting up the fellowship hall for my mom's celebration of life. The tables were beautifully displayed with flowers, and the food and beverages were arranged so thoughtfully. Because of your kindness and organization, my family didn't have to worry about a thing—we could simply be together and remember my mom in peace.

I would also like to thank the entire congregation for the love and support you have shown to my family. The service was beautiful, and Pastor Sena's homily deeply touched all of us. Thank you to Pr. Chris Nolte for his prayers at the graveside service. We are so grateful to have celebrated my mom's life here, surrounded by such a caring church family.

With appreciation and love,
Cathy Warner

November Calendar

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|----|---|---|
| | | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 ALL SAINTS 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour 6pm Private Event | 3 4:30 Scouts | 4 4:30 Worship Committee 4:30 Scouts | 5 10am Romans Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1 | 6 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts | 7 | 8 Scouts in Fellowship Hall 1pm Swanson Memorial @ Milwaukie Lutheran | |
| 9 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour 11am Faith Food | 10 4:30 Scouts | 11 6 pm Private Event 7pm Council | 12 10am Romans Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1 | 13 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 9am Social Justice Comm. 12:30 OC Women's Club 6:15pm Scouts | 14 | 15 10am DAR | |
| 16 10 am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Thanksgiving Potluck 11:15 Social Justice Com. 6pm Private Event | 17 4:30 Scouts | 18 10am Material Girls Quilt Group 12pm Men's Lunch @ Wichita 4pm LLL (Kissin' Kates) 4:30 Scouts 6pm Private Event 7pm Private Event | 19 10am Romans Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1 | 20 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12pm Backpack Buddies 6:15pm Scouts | 21 | 22 6:30 pm Family Game Night | |
| 23 DEC NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10 am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour 11am Faith Food 6pm Private Event | 24 4:30 Scouts 7pm Private Volunteer Event | 25 6 pm Private Event | 26 OFFICE CLOSED - SARAH OUT 10am Romans Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1 | 27 THANKSGIVING  | 28 | 29 | |
| 30 ADVENT BEGINS 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour | | | | | | | |

**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us
make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! -Psalm 95:2**



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