

# The Good News

## Pastor's Press: Reformation Reflections

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we reflect this October on the great legacy of the Reformation and the bold stand of Martin Luther, it's a fitting time to consider how his cry for reform resonates with us today. The phrase "Ecclesia semper reformanda est"—the church must always be reformed—is a powerful reminder that our journey as Christ's body is a continuous process of returning to the truth of God's Word. Just as the Church of Luther's day had strayed from its core mission, so too does the modern Church face its own set of challenges that call for a renewed focus on the Gospel.

In our time, the Church is often criticized for becoming more of a cultural institution than a spiritual one. We see a creeping temptation to replace God's authority with the latest trends or political ideologies. Instead of being a beacon of truth, some parts of the Church have become a reflection of the world, prioritizing entertainment and social acceptance over the hard truths of the Gospel. We are tempted to make the church a

consumer-driven experience, tailored to meet the preferences of the congregation rather than challenging us to grow in faith. This is a subtle but dangerous form of modern-day "indulgences"—a belief that we can earn God's favor by our own efforts, programs, and popularity, rather than through God's grace alone.

So, where do we need to reform? We must, like Luther, return to the "Five Solas" as our guide for renewal:

- **Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone):** We must recommit ourselves to the Bible as our ultimate authority. In a world of competing voices and shifting values, we must ground our lives and our church's mission in the unchanging Word of God. This means faithfully preaching and teaching the entire Bible, even the parts that are difficult or unpopular.

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# Council Corner

Through July and August, those of us on council attempted to call everyone in the directory to connect. We want to sincerely thank everyone who was able to take the time to share their thoughts with us! We had some blessed conversations. We discussed themes of those conversations at council and they will help guide our work. If you haven't yet gotten, or returned, a call - please feel free to reach out to any current member of Council at any time to share what's on your mind.

Examples of questions we asked and topics of discussion were:

- What do you value most about being part of PoL?
- What are PoL's strengths?

• What are areas for improving spiritual growth and connection? We captured some great themes in the responses we heard to these questions. Congregational strengths we heard highlighted included:

- our welcoming, accepting, and supportive congregation.
- outreach/service
- excitement and positivity about Pastor Sena, appreciation for her calls and visits;

We also captured some themes around areas of improvement, including:

- bringing youth in,
- increasing the number of members volunteering
- more fellowship opportunities,
- Bible study options for working people (nights, after worship).



## All Saints Celebration

Please share names and photos of saints we've lost since last All Saints day so we can recognize and celebrate them this year. Please share by October 28<sup>th</sup> so we can include them in the All Saints Service on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.



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# Pastor's Press Cont.

## CONTINUED FROM P. 1

- **Sola Fide (Faith Alone):** The modern Church can be a place of endless activity - committees, programs, and social gatherings. While these things have their place, we must never lose sight of the central truth that salvation is a gift received through faith in Christ, not by our works. Our faith must be a living trust in Him, not a list of traditions or accomplishments.
- **Sola Gratia (Grace Alone):** We are called to be a community defined by grace. This means offering a radical, unmerited welcome to all, just as Christ has welcomed us. It is grace that frees us from the pressure to be perfect and empowers us to serve out of gratitude, not obligation.
- **Solus Christus (Christ Alone):** In an age where self-help and self-promotion are rampant, we must continually lift up Christ as the sole source of our hope and salvation. Our worship, our service, and our daily lives must point to Him, not to our own accomplishments or personalities.

- **Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone):** Ultimately, all we do is for God's glory. The Reformation reminds us that the purpose of the Church is not to build our own kingdoms or to gain worldly influence, but to magnify the name of God in all things.

Reforming the Church is not about tearing it down, but about building it up on a stronger foundation—the unshakeable foundation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a humble, prayerful process of self-examination and repentance, a continual return to the timeless truths that have sustained the Church for two millennia. Let us join the reformers of the past in this vital work, praying for the courage to lead our church into a new season of faithfulness and spiritual vitality.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Sena*

## Fellowship Committee Updates

Fall greetings from your Fellowship committee!

This month I would like to acknowledge and share my appreciation for the following folks that are the Fellowship committee: Bev Spilseth, Annie Szocinski, Becky Linke, Sue Stark, Sue Robinson, John Mann, Peggy Vermaas, Kathy Wood.

My thanks for their willingness to share their time and talents.

Remember Potluck each 2nd Sunday...  
Kathy Metzger

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# The Reformation in Brief

In the 16th century, the Christian world experienced a major spiritual revival known as the Protestant Reformation. It was a time of immense change, sparked by a desire to return to the core teachings of the Bible and reform the Church. At the heart of this movement was a German monk named Martin Luther.

## The Indulgences and Luther's Protest

The Reformation began in earnest in 1517 when Martin Luther, a professor of theology, challenged the practice of selling indulgences. Indulgences were essentially certificates sold by the Church that were believed to grant forgiveness of sins or reduce the time a soul would spend in purgatory. The money was being used to fund the construction of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Luther was deeply troubled by this, believing it was a corrupt practice that misled people into thinking they could buy their way into heaven. On October 31, 1517, he famously nailed his **Ninety-five Theses** to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The theses were a list of propositions for a scholarly debate, but they quickly spread thanks to the newly invented printing press. This document was a powerful critique of the Church's abuses and a call for a return to a more biblical understanding of salvation.

## The Core Beliefs of the Reformation

The Reformation wasn't just about one issue; it was a re-examination of fundamental Christian beliefs. The reformers, led by Luther, emphasized a few key principles, often summarized as the "Five Solas":

- **Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone):** This principle asserts that the Bible, as the inspired Word of God, is the sole and final authority for all matters of faith and practice.

It challenged the Church's tradition and papal authority as equal to Scripture.

- **Sola Fide (Faith Alone):** The reformers taught that salvation is received through faith in Jesus Christ alone, not by good works or rituals. They believed that no human effort could earn God's favor; it is a gift freely given by God's grace.
- **Sola Gratia (Grace Alone):** Salvation is entirely an unearned gift from God. This principle stresses that humanity's salvation is not a result of our own merit but is a demonstration of God's immense and undeserved love.
- **Solus Christus (Christ Alone):** Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and humanity. The Reformation affirmed that salvation comes through Christ's sacrifice on the cross alone, without the need for priests or saints as intermediaries.
- **Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone):** All of life, and especially salvation, should be lived for the glory of God alone. This principle reminds us that everything we do, from our work to our worship, should be a testament to God's greatness.

## Luther's Legacy

Martin Luther's courage and conviction ignited a movement that forever changed the course of Christianity. His translation of the Bible into German made the scriptures accessible to the common people for the first time, empowering them to read and interpret God's Word for themselves. The Reformation led to the formation of new Protestant denominations, each with a commitment to these foundational principles.

The Reformation reminds us of the importance of continually examining our faith against the standard of God's Word. It's a powerful story of one man's faithfulness that brought about a spiritual awakening and a return to the very heart of the Gospel.

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# Rhythm and News: Updates from our Music Director

Greetings! It's been a few weeks now since my arrival at Prince of Life, and I'm just getting to know a few of this great church family. I look forward to learning more about the rich history of POL and discovering the gifts that many of you bring or would like to contribute to our worship. As we move into the Advent and Christmas seasons, it would be lovely to feature special instruments or vocals, and we will also be looking for interested singers for a friendly, not-too-demanding Festival Choir.

You are warmly invited to join us as we prepare a choir anthem for the

Reformation Sunday service on October 26<sup>th</sup>. We'll rehearse at 5:30 Wednesdays, beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. If you can carry a tune, come on by and check it out (music reading not required).

If you'd like to drop by and say hello, I'm generally in the office Tuesday afternoons and Wednesdays into the early evening, and I'll also be around for a while after the Sunday worship services. It's good to be with you all, and I'm excited about celebrating our Prince of Life together!



## Love Christmas Music? Consider Joining the Music Team for the Holiday Season

This is an invitation to anyone who enjoys singing Christmas music to join the music team for the holiday season.

For more information, contact Suzan or Lennie.

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# October Green Planet

Underwater forests could be the answer to helping to mitigate the environment from the impacts of climate change.

Kelp, large brown algae or seaweeds that grow in shallow oceans, is a nutrient-rich species that grows quickly, helping it to absorb carbon dioxide at a higher rate than other ecosystems, including all of the CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed from eelgrass, salt marshes and mangroves combined, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The efficiency at which kelp is able to pluck the greenhouse gas out of the atmosphere is one of the many reasons why it is increasingly being identified as a potential solution to climate change.

Take care of each other and our fragile planet.

Peace,  
Carol



**Learn More**

## Fall Faith Food Series: Catechism for All

**October 12<sup>th</sup>:** Grounding Ourselves: Overview of Christian Faith & Introduction to the Basics of the Bible

**October 19<sup>th</sup>:** God's Intentions for Our Lives: Law

**November 9<sup>th</sup>:** God's Actions for Us: Creed

**November 16<sup>th</sup>:** Talking Back to God: Lord's Prayer

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Assurance of New Live & Salvation: Sacraments

**TBD:** Possible Extra: Studying Martin Luther's Preface to the Small Catechism (1529)

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# Love INC is in Need of Shoes

With the start of the school year just past us, Love INC is in need of a restock of some specific shoe sizes. Last school year, Love INC provided 121 students with shoes!

Only new, good quality, 'general use' (not dress shoes, sandals or other specialty shoes) can be accepted.

Here are the sizes we specifically need more of:

Youth Girls' 2.5

Womens' 9.5, 10.5, 12.5, 13

Youth Boys 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5.5

Mens' 6, 8, 9, 12.5, 13.5, 14, 14.5, 15

Donations can be placed in the Love INC box in the narthex.

## Festival Calendar of Events -Pets to Pageant

*Save the dates and plan accordingly for our upcoming busy Fall Season of festival Sundays and the Season of Advent and Christmas.*

### October

10/5 Blessing of the Animals  
10/12 Faith Food after Service  
10/19 Faith Food after Service  
10/26 Reformation and New Member  
Sunday

### November

11/2 All Saints Day Celebration  
11/9 Faith Food after Service  
11/16 Faith Food after Service  
11/23 Christ the King Sunday,  
Faith Food after Service  
11/30 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

### December

12/3 Noon Advent Prayer Service  
12/7 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
12/10 Noon Advent Prayer Service  
12/10 Special Holden Evening Prayer  
Service (time TBD)  
12/14 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
12/17 Noon Advent Prayer Service  
12/21 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent  
12/21 Special Longest Night Service  
(time TBD)  
12/24 Christ Eve Candle Light Service  
(time TBD)  
12/28 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas  
Pageant and Hymn Sing

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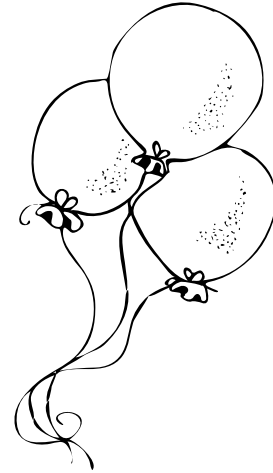
# October Celebrations

## Birthdays

3	Becky Linke
5	David Stark
8	Lillian Hulett
12	Pauline Vorderstrasse, Soraya Morgan
15	Ed Minster, Mary Swanson,
18	Doug Wood
19	Carol Bresky
26	Yvonne Sawtell
27	Joe Sawtell

## Anniversaries

8	John and Debbie Mohlis
23	Greg & Traci Anderson



God's Blessings on your celebrations!

## Blood Drive

This quarter's American Red Cross blood drive  
is scheduled for  
**Monday, October 13, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

Giving blood can make a difference in a  
neighbor's life.

To schedule an appointment to donate blood,  
you can use the Red Cross Blood Donor App,  
visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), or call 1-800-RED  
CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

*"Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no  
commandment greater than these" (Mark  
12:31).*





# October Calendar

			1 10am Romans Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	2 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	3	4
5 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour 6pm Private Event	6 4:30 Scouts	7 4:30 Worship Committee 6pm Private Event	8 10am Romans Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	9 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 9am Social Justice Comm. 12:30 OC Women's Club 6:15pm Scouts	10 12pm Scrapbooking Group	11 9am Scrapbooking Group
12 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am All Church Potluck 11am Faith Food	13 <b>INDIGINOUS PEOPLE'S DAY</b> 2pm Red Cross Blood Drive 4:30 Scouts	14 6 pm Private Event 7pm Council	15 10am Romans Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	16 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	17 6:30 pm Family Game Night	18 10am Memorial Service 2pm DAR
19 10 am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour 11am Faith Food 11:15 Social Justice Com. 5pm Private Event	20 <b>PASTOR OUT OF OFFICE</b> 4:30 Scouts 7pm Private Volunteer Event	21 10am Material Girls Quilt Group 12pm Men's Lunch @ Wichita 6pm Private Event 7pm Private Event	22 10am Romans Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	23 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12pm Backpack Buddies 6:15pm Scouts	24	25
26 10am Worship Sanctuary & YouTube 11am Coffee Hour	27 4:30 Scouts 7pm Private Volunteer Event	28 6 pm Private Event	29 10am Romans Bible Study 4:45 Navigators USA 5pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 Recovery 1	30 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	31 	

## September Fellowship Opportunities

### Monthly Potluck 10/12

Bring your favorite dish to share and join us in the Fellowship Hall after Service.

### Men's Lunch 10/21

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 10/21

Time and Location for October TBD. Watch weekly announcements.

### Family Game Night 10/17

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

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)