

The Good News

Pastor's Press: Grace and Stewardship: Living the Gift We've Received

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

One Sunday a few years ago, as the ushers brought up the offering plates, I noticed a small envelope tucked inside – I asked to see it later. It wasn't heavy—inside was a child's hand-drawn picture of a cross, with the words, "Thank you, Jesus." There was no money, but the gift was priceless. It reminded me that stewardship begins not with the size of what we give, but with the heart that gives it.

Grace at the Center

In Christ, we've already been given more than we could ever repay. The cross was not a loan; it was a gift. As Lutherans, we know our giving doesn't buy God's favor—it flows from the favor we already have in Christ. St. Paul puts it this way: "*You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor...*" (2 Cor. 8:9).

Law and Gospel in Our Giving

The Law shows us how easily we cling to our time, talents, and treasure as if they were ours alone. The Gospel sets us free—free to give without fear, because our worth isn't measured by what we keep, but by what Christ has already done for us.

What Stewardship Looks Like Here at Prince of Life

- **Time:** Helping set up for fellowship hour, visiting a homebound neighbor, or showing up faithfully for outside -of-worship events and programs.
- **Talents:** Sharing music in worship, teaching youth, quilting and building.
- **Treasure:** Supporting our ministries through tithing to bring the Gospel outside our walls, and so that those in need have a little more.

Imagine This Together...

Picture our congregation if every gift God placed in our hands was offered freely:

- Our food pantry shelves are full and overflowing into the community.
- Our building buzzing with neighbors coming and going into this safe space.
- Our name being proclaimed as a place where Jesus and neighbor are loved and served.

This isn't just a dream—it's what happens when grace fuels generosity.

Continued on P. 3

In this issue:

Council Corner
(P 2)

Last Things
Planning (P 2)

Social Justice
Cluster Tea (P 3)

Building Grace-
filled Stewardship
(P 4)

Thank you from
Project Start Right
(P 5)

July Calendar &
Celebrations
(P 6-7)

Council Corner

At the August meeting, Council approved the 2024 Financial Audit Report.

Huge thanks to Sharon Wilson for her many years of service on the audit committee!! And to Marsha Gross who will be preparing the 2025 financial audit and Linda Garrett for her continuing work on the committee.

The audit committee needs a third member - please contact Annie Sakaguchi if you are interested in serving on this important committee.

Interested in everything going on with Council? The most recent approved minutes are available on the bulletin board in the narthex for anyone to review, and reach out to anyone on council with questions.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE TO 10AM - COMING SEPTEMBER 7TH

Council approved a time change at their August Council Meeting. Make sure you adjust your clocks!

Last Things Planning

Did you know that we have forms for you to record your preferences related to your final arrangements? This is a great way to make your wishes known now and ensure an easy planning process for your loved ones.

Blank forms can be picked up in the office and will be kept on file.

We will also be planning a "Last Things" seminar in January.



Christians in Training

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASSES WILL LAUNCH IN
SEPTEMBER, DATE TBD

INTERESTED IN HELPING
WITH DESIGN OR
TEACHING? CONTACT
NANCY WHEELER

Pastor's Press Cont.

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

One Small Step This Week

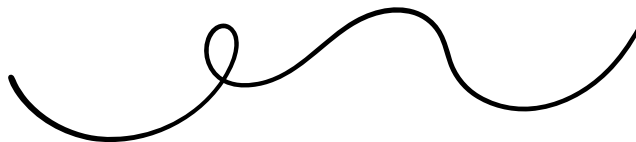
I invite you to choose one tangible way to live out stewardship in the coming days:

- Bring canned goods to Sunday's service to place in the shopping cart for the food pantry.
- Write a note of encouragement to someone you haven't seen in worship lately or who is homebound.

- Take ten minutes each morning to thank God for the gifts and ask how God would have you use them in this coming season.

Let's be known not only for believing the Gospel, but for living it in a way that makes our neighbors wonder about the source of our joy.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Sena Norton



Social Justice Committee—Upcoming Cluster Tea

As mentioned last month, we met in August on 8/17/25 and planned for a **Cluster Social Justice Tea on Saturday 9/20/25 from 2-4PM**. We're planning to have each congregation share what their Social Justice committee is working on. We decided the best way to make sure we have more congregations represented was to send out an invitation with an RSVP so we could get an idea how many congregations were planning to attend. That was sent by email on Wednesday 8/20/25, which gives them a month notice before the Tea.

If any of you know members of one of our Cluster churches, would you please talk to them and make sure they received the invitation? Tell them what some of the things Prince of Life does and ask them if they have a Social Justice Committee or something else that is similar.

Oregon Trail Cluster Churches include Christ in Aurora, Colton in Colton, Community of Hope in Wilsonville, Creator in Clackamas, Spirit of Life in Gladstone, Macksburg in Canby, Milwaukie in Milwaukie, Our Savior's in Lake Oswego, West Linn in West Linn, Zion in Oregon City, and Zoar in Canby.

We are contacting members of our congregation to give brief presentations about what Start Right, Backpack Buddies, Bunkbed Ministries, Piece by Piece Quilters, SON ministry, Climate Resilience as well as Child Care are doing. Anyone in our congregation can attend this Tea to hear what other Cluster Churches are doing too.

Janet Mann

Building Grace-filled Stewardship – Weekly Devotions

Week 1 — Grace at the Start

“From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.” – John 1:16

Every act of Christian generosity begins here: God has already given us everything. Our lives, our salvation, our daily bread—all flow from His loving hand. Stewardship is not an obligation to earn His favor, but a joy-filled response to it.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to see all I have as a gift from You. Shape my giving to reflect Your grace. Amen.

Live It Out: Keep a “gratitude list” this week. Each entry is a reminder of God’s generosity.

Week 2 — The Freedom to Give

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.” – Galatians 5:1

The Law may reveal our reluctance to give, but the Gospel sets us free from fear. No gift you offer can make God love you more—yet each gift becomes a sign of His love at work in you.

Prayer: Gracious Redeemer, free me from the grip of fear or scarcity. Let my giving be a song of thanksgiving. Amen.

Live It Out: Give one “hidden gift” this week—an anonymous act of kindness for someone in need.

Week 3 — Time, Talent, Treasure

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another.” – 1 Peter 4:10

God’s grace is multi-faceted: it shows up in your hours, your abilities, and your resources. Every moment you volunteer, every skill you share, every dollar you give—it’s all grace in motion.

Prayer: Lord of all gifts, take my time, my skills, and my resources. Use them for Your glory and my neighbor’s good. Amen.

Live It Out: Choose one area—time, talent, or treasure—and intentionally offer it to bless another this week.

Week 4 — Grace Overflowing

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you... so you may abound in every good work.” – 2 Corinthians 9:8

When we open our hands, we discover that God keeps filling them. His grace never runs dry, and neither does the potential for His people to bless the world.

Prayer: Generous Holy One, make my life a vessel that overflows with Your grace. Let Your blessings pass through me to others. Amen.

Live It Out: Invite someone to join you in a small act of generosity—show them the joy of giving together.

Values of a Steward

INTENTIONAL

GENEROUS

REGULAR

FIRST

PROPORTIONAL

CHEERFUL

Thank you again to Kathy Mackin!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for her blessing service and fellowship on August 17th.



Fellowship Committee Updates

Good times are happening as we transcend into Fall!

Potluck will resume on September 14. It may be a good time to share our garden harvest. Bring your favorite dish and enjoy a meal together

Laughing Lutheran Ladies meet each third Tuesday. Stay tuned for our next location.

My thanks to all who volunteer.
Kathy Metzger

Thank you! Thank you!

During the mornings from August 11th through the 15th many volunteers gathered in our Prince of Life Fellowship Room to assemble **1450 packs of school supplies for students in grades K-12** and then deliver them to Clackamas County's Department of Human Services referral agencies for distribution to foster families and families needing support to start the 2025-2026 school year right.

Thank you so much for your incredible support of this ministry with gifts of time, monetary support and prayer. Our congregation partners with many churches, businesses, senior residence facilities and charitable organizations in our county to purchase the supplies and prepare them for distribution. Your faithful participation makes all of this possible. Thank you so much!



In appreciation,
your Project Start Right Team
Lori Downs, Cherry Harris, Kristen Paschall,
Julie Schedler, Bev Spilseth, Mary Swanson,
Pauline Vorderstrasse, Nancy Wheeler and
Lyle Wiese



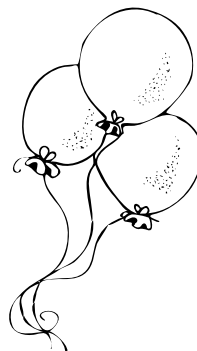
September Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Stephanie LaCrosse
- 2 Nathan Morgan
- 3 Calvin Taylor
- 5 Linda Garrett
- 6 Bryan Bowyer
- 13 Alana Morgan
- 16 Myka Morterud
- 19 Sally Buol
- 20 Sally Pierce, Jeremy Taylor
- 21 Kurt Torgerson
- 26 Rory Schedler
- 28 Elliot Fray, Cathy Warner, Lyle Wiese

Anniversaries

- 1 Tammy & Jeremy Taylor
- 13 Sarah & Nicholas Wheeler
- 14 Barbara & Raymond Renken
- 29 Kim & Clyde Tambling



God's Blessings on your celebrations!

Did you know you can give to Prince of Life online?

Scan the QR code to go directly
to Simply Giving from Vanco.
You can set up one time or
recurring giving.



September Green Planet

Companies that sell packaged products are now financially responsible for helping the state collect and recycle that packaging. The change in law aims to modernize Oregon's recycling system, expand access — especially in rural areas — and ensure companies help cover the costs of recycling the materials they produce.



Take care of yourself and others, Carol

Scan to Learn More

September Calendar

NOTE: Worship time change to 10am on 9/7

	1 OFFICE CLOSURE - LABOR DAY 4:30 Scouts	2 Suzan's First Day! 4:30 Worship Committee	3 All Day - AV Upgrades 10am Romans Bible Study 4pm Music Rehearsal 4:45 Navigators USA 6:30 Recovery 1	4 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	5	6
7 10am Worship Sanctuary & Zoom* 11am Coffee Hour 11am Stewardship Taskforce Meeting 6pm Private Event	8 4:30 Scouts	9 All Day - Upholstery Cleaning 6pm Private Event 7pm Council	10 10am Romans Bible Study 4pm Music Rehearsal 4:45 Navigators USA 6:30 Recovery 1	11 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12:30 OC Women's Club 6:15pm Scouts	12	13
14 10am Worship Sanctuary & Zoom* 11am All Church Potluck 11:15 Sunday Servants Training	15 4:30pm Scouts 7pm Brenden Estates HOA Meeting	16 10am Material Girls Quilt Group 12pm Men's Lunch @ Wichita 4pm LLL Happy Hour 6pm Private Event 7pm Private Event	17 10am Romans Bible Study 4pm Music Rehearsal 4:45 Navigators USA 6:30 Recovery 1	18 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:15pm Scouts	19 6:30 pm Family Game Night	20 9:30 DAR Meeting 2pm Social Justice Tea
21 10 am Worship Sanctuary & Zoom* 11am Coffee Hour 11:15 Social Justice Com. 6pm Private Event	22 OFFICE CLOSURE 4:30 Scouts 7pm Private Volunteer Event	23 6pm Private Event	24 10am Romans Bible Study 4pm Music Rehearsal 4:45 Navigators USA 6:30 Recovery 1	25 9am Peace by Piece Quilters 12pm Backpack Buddies 6:15pm Scouts	26	27
28 10am Worship Sanctuary & Zoom* 11am Coffee Hour	29 4:30 Scouts	30				

*Service recordings available on YouTube after Noon

September Fellowship Opportunities

Monthly Potluck 9/14

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

Men's Lunch 9/16

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.

Laughing Lutheran Ladies 9/16

We're planning to do Happy Hour again in September. Location TBD - watch weekly announcements!

Family Game Night 9/19

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



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