

The Good News

"To know the love of God in Jesus Christ, and to share that love through word and action."

July 2023

Pastor Robert's Reflections

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise."

Galatians 3:23-29

There is an "us versus them" mentality that plagues pretty much everyone in one shape or another. Everyone pretty much has a "them" or "those people". "They" could be men, women, gay, straight, transgender, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, educated, uneducated, rich, poor, republican, democrat, Norwegian, German, Somalian, Iranian, Beaver fan, Duck fan, etc....

Yet how do we quit focusing on what divides us, and begin focusing more on those things that unite us. Unfortunately, this is not very easy since socially we have been conditioned to focus

(Continued on page 2)

Kids' Kitchen is Coming to Town

Hold on to your hats, folks—a new energy for change is taking root at Prince of Life! Climate Café's *Kids Kitchen* is in the works.

A growing group of youngsters with oldsters has been planting and preparing for an all-community meal. Saturday, September 23 at noon, we are inviting the church to turn inside out and invite the outside in—for the sake of **changing the climate paradigm**. We are moving from despair about climate crisis towards hopeful new solutions to a problem that only seems to be getting worse. Not only do we advocate regenerative, sustainable, creative repair for our suffering earth; we are actually **DOING** something about it.

What's the difference between a church supper, a soup kitchen, and Kids' Kitchen? We are offering delicious and nutritious plant-based, low carbon footprint fare that we will have planned, planted, harvested, prepared, served and shared from the ground up. **AND** all this is offered in the context of a gift economy—like the one pictured in the book of Acts, where no one is hungry, no one gets left out, and the wider community is invited to sit down with everyone else at this bounteous table of grace. Those who can afford to give more welcome those who don't have those resources can enjoy the high-quality organic produce of the meal—right alongside everyone else.

Won't you pitch in and join us?

For the love of ALL CREATION!

Searching for Our Next Pastor

Our Call Committee has been formed. Members include Scott Salter, (Chair,) Kevin Hormann, Joyce Johnson, Barbara Renken, Julie Schedler, Bev Spilseth, Richard Sternberg, MaryJo Tyler, and Sarah Wheler. Kay O'Dea will serve as alternate.

(Continued from page 1)

on our differences.

Whenever we walk into a room, whether it is conscious or not, we immediately begin to place people into the proper categories that we have been taught throughout our lives as we discern who would be the best person to speak to or avoid depending upon what we want addressed and what we might consider a threat. In some ways this can be a good thing.

When you walk into a hospital you can pretty readily tell who the receptionist is, who the nurses are, and who the doctors are. This conditioning can also prompt us to pass judgement on people in particular situations as well when the individual has done little or nothing to deserve whatever judgement that we have made.

TV news, Reality programs, sitcoms, serial dramas, movies, etc..... each one consciously and/or unconsciously instill and reinforce stereotypes regarding the varied types of people in the world. This is so prevalent that when a television program or movie subverts an accepted stereotype then we are usually quite shocked, and it becomes its own news story.

Whether we mean to or not, we then carry these stereotypes with us in the back of our mind shaping how we characterize, categorize, and utilize the different types of people we meet. All of this has another side effect, it causes us to dehumanize those around us.

Here in our own communities we gravitate toward those people and groups that we have determined are most like us and that is good. Unfortunately what also seems to happen is that we use labels that we have learned to push away and dehumanize those who are not like us.

We then use these labels to reinforce why we dislike someone, or as a reason why we should avoid them. Yet what if I was to tell you that the person you dislike, the one that annoys, infuriates, and/or disgusts you is your brother or your sister, that each of us has a calling not to push them away but instead to embrace and

A Note from Miriam's Family

Dear Prince of Life Lutheran Church,

We would like to thank the church for conducting our mother's funeral service.

We felt the love and support of the congregation in all of our contact with the church. Our thanks to Pastor Robert for planning the service, to Edith for printing and editing, to Mary and the women of the church for the reception after the service, and to Jesse for the music.

We know we may have forgotten someone, but we will always thank you so much.

Mom was proud to be a member of POL for over 40 years. Now we know why.

Our heartfelt Thanks for a job well done.

Thank you,

Ken, Dan and Darryl Wright

move forward together.

Of course, there are times when this is impossible, when damage has been done between two people that is nearly insurmountable, but the vast majority of the things that usually separate us are relatively small and petty.

Sure each of us make mistakes and act in ways that cause pain to others but each of us must also learn to forgive and move forward with the understanding that the person you have wronged or has wronged or annoyed you is a fellow child of God, (or if you prefer cohabitant on this great planet) and therefore you are both part of one body.

Peace and Blessings

Pastor Robert

**Email Pastor Robert at
gumby523@yahoo.com**



Project Start Right, 2023

The Project Start Right team has met and the ordering process for the school packs for the 2023-2024 school year has begun.

Last year, thanks to the generosity of many people, the Start Right project distributed basic back-to-school supply packs to approximately 1400 Clackamas County children of low-income families and children in foster care, grades K-12.

This project is sponsored by Prince of Life Lutheran Church, other area churches and the Oregon Department of Human Services.

As has been done the past several years, we are asking for monetary donations in lieu of donated supplies. This process allows for a more certain inventory and the ability to purchase supplies at the best prices possible.

To support this year's effort, please send your donation to the following address:

Start Right
PO Box 952
Oregon City, OR 97045

Your entire monetary donation will be used to purchase school supplies. A tax-deductible receipt will be returned to you upon receipt of your gift.

The Start Right team will also be requesting volunteers to assemble the supply packs the week of August 14th. More information on the schedule for that week will be forthcoming.

Thank you in advance for your support, a worthy effort that helps so many community children *start the school year right!*

Help Grow the Mission Endowment Fund. *Leave a Legacy for ministry.*

When you leave a gift to Prince of Life as a memorial, it is a restricted gift. Once the money is used up it is gone.

When a donation is made to the Mission Endowment Fund, it helps grow the fund. The principal is never touched. Only the interest is used to provide money for grant requests.

Consider making a donation in memorial or in honor of a loved one.

NOW is the also time to fill out an application for grants. Applications are available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Sue Stark, James Tyler, Lyle Wiese & Cathy Warner
Mission Endowment Committee

Final Report of the Transition Committee

On June 13, 2023, the Council approved the final version of the Prince (MSP) of Life Lutheran Church Ministry Site Profile and The Six Reflections on Ministry and Context. Then on Sunday, June 18th, the Transition Team and the Call Committee held a joint meeting .

The face to face contact with each other hopefully will help the Call Committee feel comfortable in reaching out to the Transition Team with questions regarding their work.

Scott Salter was elected chairperson of the Call Committee by the members in a closed session on June 18.

On Monday June 19, the completed MSP and Reflection's in Ministry and Context were submitted to the ELCA. We received confirmation of receipt of the documents.

The work of the Transition Team has concluded. I am proud of our Ministry Site Profile and the Six Reflections on Ministry and Context.

These creations are the results of teamwork by the following: Rebecca Harms (Recorder), Marsha Gross, Kevin Hormann, (Lead Author), Dan Hughson, Pastor Robert Neubert, John Mann, Kay O'Dea, Lennie Torgerson, and Cathy Warner. Our congregation is blessed to have such intelligent, caring, dedicated and faithful members.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Sakaquchi.

Transition Committee Chair

Wanted: Congregational Photos For Our New Church Website



I **LOVE** this photograph taken during recent worship service. I can really feel the warmth of your love shown here in the laying on of hands.

Plans are being made to create a new church website. No matter what design is chosen and no matter who builds our new website, we will need LOTS of good photos of our church family.

Photos like the one to the left bring a warm invitation to website visitors to come 'try us out' and worship with us. Photos like this tell a story that words never can express.

What kind of photos?

Congregants worshipping and communing.

Musicians and others praising God with songs and hymns.

Fellowship at coffee hour, game night and other social events.

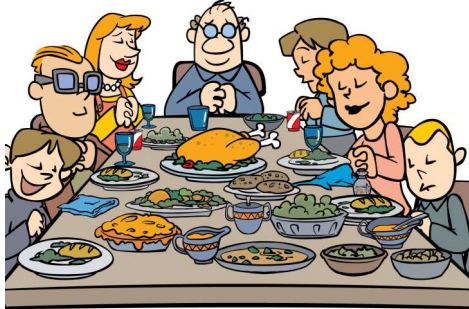
Volunteers working on Backpack Buddies, Start Right and our Hope Garden.

Email your photos to the church office at pllc@princeoflife.org

We appreciate your photos. All photos may not be able to be used or fitted into the new site.

Edith Sanguinetti Alben, Prince of Life Office Coordinator

Fun, Fellowship and Ministry at Prince of Life



Congregational Potluck July 16

No game night for July or August but do not despair!

Who remembers Sunday dinner? We are going to have our first Sunday dinner (potluck) on July 16 right after church! Bring your favorite potluck dish and join us for fun and fellowship!

Questions: cindyborders24@gmail.com

Peace by Piece Quilters

We continue to meet Thursdays, 9-12, followed by lunch and conversation. There are many tasks that go in to making a quilt; many do not even involve a sewing machine. If you like color, fabric, and conversation, we are the group for you.

Please visit us! Margaret Bowyer,
bowyermk@yahoo.com 503-913-2678

The Next Generation in the Hope Garden

Our garden is alive and growing organic food. Inspired by Bonnie Cochise and Climate Cafe Ministry, a small group of us have weeded, cleaned out the beds and prepared most of the beds for planting. Big thanks goes to Peggy Vermaas and family.

Organic plants donated by Acres of Abundant Grace in Canby have been planted by the Wheeler family.

Molly Hewitt's Girl Scouts will grow food in two beds and help to water and maintain the garden.

The Girls Scouts plan to donate fresh produce to the HOPE Pantry and participate in the Kid's Kitchen Event.

Our goal is to grow, harvest and prepare the food for the Climate Cafe Kid's Kitchen Cafe event hosted by Prince of Life on September 23, 2023.

Volunteers are needed to join our Garden and Climate Cafe Kid's Kitchen Planning Team. Please contact Tyleen Conrow if you are interested. Email: tyleendream46@gmail.com or call/text 503-860-1438.

Retired Men's Lunch

Retired men in the congregation are invited to meet in Oregon City's Wichita Pub at noon each third Tuesday of the month for food and fellowship. If you need a ride, call Harlow Jacobson at 503-656-1616.

Oregon City
WICHITA
Bar & Grill

July 2023 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed.	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Please submit you articles for the August newsletter by July 15.						1 <i>11am Ken Harmon Funeral</i>
2 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10: 30 Coffee Hour	3 4:30 Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts	4 11 am Staff Mtg. 5 pm Girl Scouts	5 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	6 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	7 6 pm Scrap-booking	8 9 am Scrap-booking
Pastor Rob on Vacation July 4 –12						
9 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Coffee Hour 2 pm Girl Scouts	10 4:30 Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts	11 11 am Staff Mtg. 10:00 am Material Girls Quilt Group 5 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Property Committee Mtg.	12 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	13 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters Noon Backpack Buddies 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	14	15 9:30 am DAR
Pastor Rob on Vacation July 4—12						
16 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Congregational Potluck	17 4:30 Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scout Event	18 11 am Staff Mtg. Noon Retired Men's Lunch @ Wichita Pub 5 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Child, Youth & Family Service Com. On Zoom	19 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	20 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	21	23
23 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 9:10:30 Coffee Hour	24 4:30 Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scout Event	25	26 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	27 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	28	29
30 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 9:10:30 Coffee Hour	31 4:30 Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scout Event	For the most up-to-date calendar information, visit our website: www.princeoflifelutheran.com. You'll find our current calendar at the bottom of the page.				

Child, Youth, and Family Service Committee

During the past month our members have been involved with communications from the Clackamas County Children's Commission (Head Start), participating in meetings with the Clackamas County Childcare for All Coalition, and meeting together as a committee to discuss options and make decisions.

To start with, Head Start leaders let us know that even with taking out the dividing walls between the Sunday School rooms, the space was not large enough to meet the state classroom size requirements for the age group. So, the only room large enough for a Head Start class was the Fellowship Hall.

Our committee had initially considered shared use of this space; however, after continued discussion and thought we agreed that this would not work. We noted that we had a Red Cross Blood Drive, a Funeral reception, and the Narcotics Anonymous group using the space in 3 consecutive days recently. Two of the uses were during the day. Though some switching of spaces is possible within our building (Red Cross and NA), it just won't work for other important uses like funeral and memorial receptions. One of our members made an especially good point; shared use with Head Start would not be a positive beginning for our desired long-term relationship with Head Start in a separate building. The stress of figuring out alternatives could foster resentment toward Head Start among our members.

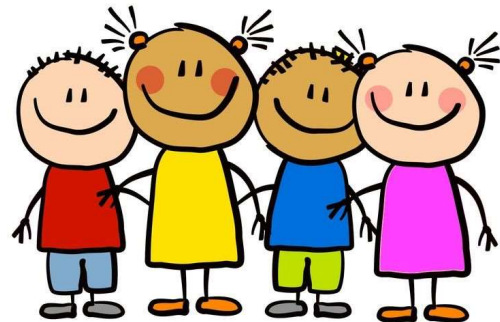
Our communication with Head Start indicated that there is plenty of room out back for a building. Our committee is seeking another visit with them to explore what a timeline might look like if we concentrated on just that plan. We already know that they are presently in the process of developing their 3-5 year timeline, which includes a reassessment of need for services throughout the county. Also, we would like to consider development of low-cost afterschool care in our building as an alternative for right now.

The person considering use of our land for a fitness based childcare facility has decided to table that plan for now and concentrate on developing their business model closer to their Milwaukie home. Trying it out and perfecting how it would work will be time intensive even without the cost of building a facility. They are keeping us in mind and may contact us in the future. This doesn't prevent us from continuing to explore other partners, like Head Start.

Clackamas County Child Care for All Coalition is continuing to meet and share information on what is happening with child care in the county. Since all the meetings are on Zoom, they are planning an in person get together in late summer or early fall so we can meet each other and talk in person.

Another development is that one of the organizing partner organizations, Clackamas Workforce Partnership, is developing a community wide planning project aimed at gathering input from as many people as possible. They have approached us at Prince of Life to participate in collecting information from community members. The two key questions they are asking are "What do you love about your community?" and "What needs to change to make it better?". We do want to be a part of our community and be aware of needs and wants around us. We are going to continue exploring our participation in this project.

Janet Mann,
Committee Chair



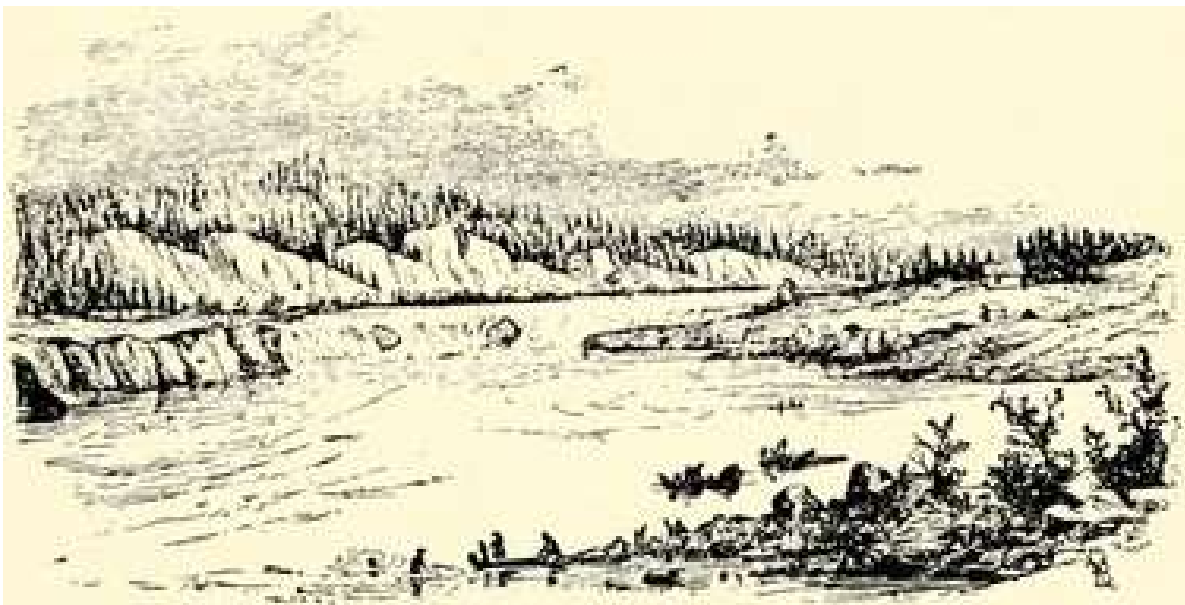
Clackamas County Land Acknowledgement★

There are many Indigenous communities that have a historical, cultural and spiritual connection to what is now Clackamas County. The Willamette Valley and surrounding areas - from the mountain range to the ocean – were honored by Indigenous groups for its diversity, beauty, and abundance. This is what drew people here for generations prior to colonization.

We will never be able to name every tribe that visited or lived upon this land because these communities frequently traveled for trade and other reasons. The Indigenous people lived, traded and navigated along great rivers and tributaries presently named the Clackamas, Molalla, Pudding, Sandy, and Willamette. Many of the original inhabitants of this land died from disease, brought on by early European settlers and French fur trappers. Those that survived fatal diseases and other conflicts were forcibly removed and relocated by the United States Government because of the land's value.

Today, descendants live on, carrying on traditions and cultures, honoring their ancestors. We honor the Native American people of Clackamas County as a vibrant, foundational and integral part of our community here today. We respectfully acknowledge Wy'east, also known as Mount Hood, and Hyas Tyee Tumwata, also known as Willamette Falls, as sacred sites for many Native Americans. We thank those who have connection to this land and serve as stewards, working to ensure our ecosystem stays balanced and healthy.

Acknowledging the original people of the land is a simple, powerful practice that demonstrates respect by making Indigenous people's history and culture visible. It is also a small step along the path toward reconciliation and repair. Please join us in taking this opportunity to thank and honor the original caretakers of this land.



Drawing of Hyas Tyee Tumwata, aka Willamette Falls prior to development. Source: Wikipedia

Backpack Buddies

Thank you to all our volunteers for this tremendous year in which we delivered many bags of nutritious foods to children in need!

We could not have done this without the support of the following people:

Nancy Wheeler - Inventory Specialist, categorizes and counts food items

Margaret Murphy - Oregon Food Bank Retrieval Specialist, picks up food items from the Food Bank when they are available

Mary Jo Tyler - Shopping Expert, shops for items down to the exact number

Kathy & Doug Wood - Delivery Team and all around amazing volunteers who pick up banana boxes and graciously deal with administrative errors

Phyllis & John Hines - Delivery Team and back up specialists for everything

James Tyler - Delivery Team member and specialist in bringing bags and love from the community to children

Lori Downs - Delivery Team member and specialist in bringing bags and love from the community to children

Karen Steiner - Delivery Team member and specialist in bringing bags and love from the community to children

Chris Sternberg - Delivery Team member and incredible helper who specializes in sharing her knowledge from last year to train others and to continue bringing bags and love from the community to children

Bev Spilseth and the Oregon City Woman's Club - How can we ever thank you enough for every hour you have spent making the bags? There aren't enough words for your continued devotion! Those bags get filled no matter the weather. Your support is tremendous!

And thank you Congregation for your continued support as we close up the 15th year of delivering bags of food!

We will rest up for the summer and get ready for next school year.

Cathy Warner

Green Planet

I have been doing a lot of online shopping lately. Some things I have to return. I assumed the companies would repackage and resell those items. Turns out that is not always the case. Read or listen to this article to find out more.

<https://earth911.com/business-policy/rescuing-product-returns>

Take care of yourselves and our planet.

Love and protect our planet. Peace, *Carol Bresky*



Women's Retreat July 28-30 at Camp Lutherwood

Join women ages 18 and over at Camp Lutherwood in Cheshire, Oregon* for a time to reflect, rest, and renew July 28-30.

Cost for two nights lodging, meals and programming is \$150.

Register at:

<https://www.lutherwoodoregon.org/camp/>

Contact Lennie for carpooling at 503-939-3480.

* Camp Lutherwood is located on Highway 36, in Lane County, southwest of Junction City here in Oregon

Not So Good News

On Wednesday evening, June 14th, a large Semi with trailer attempted to turn around in our parking lot. During this attempt the driver broke of a large branch on the flowering cherry tree next to our sanctuary.

Church members happened to be present to see the damage and contacted the police department.

An arborist who inspected the damage to the tree reports that the tree will eventually rot due to the depth of the break, but will survive for the time being.

Members of the church council will be in contact with the owners of the trucking company.



**HELPING
OTHER
PEOPLE
EAT**

Currently the most needed items at our local Food Pantry are:

**Boxed Mac & Cheese
Prepared meals
Canned or boxed
Main Dishes**

Many clients do not have access to a kitchen, so pre-packaged meals are always welcomed.

Please bring your food donations to church and put them in our shopping cart, next to the lift.



July Celebrations!

Birthdays

- 7 Carole Hallen, Patty Johnson
- 8 Kalen Klebaum, Kristen Stormer
- 12 Neville Hicks, Paul Rickey, Jr.
- 14 Parker Hulett, Kathy Metzger,
Brandon Phillips
- 15 Karla Hicks
- 17 Amy Bello
- 18 Ellie Menke-Bowers
- 20 Ruth Reno
- 22 Laura Graves
- 26 Greg Anderson, Susan Robinson
- 27 Brooklynne Lewis
- 28 Linda Monise, Nancy Wheeler
- 30 Irene Darling
- 31 Dollie Sommer

Wedding Anniversaries

- 4 Liv & Troy Sherwood
- 12 Rex & Liz Hagans
- 13 Margaret & Bryan Bowyer
- 14 Megan & Jay Sandmann,
David & Sue Stark
- 30 Shauna & Kevin Hormann
- 31 Kevin & Brenda Haunschild

God's blessings on your special day!

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



13896 S. Meyers Road
Oregon City, Oregon
Website: www.princeoflife.org

PO Box 264
Phone: 503-657-3100
E-mail: pllc@princeoflife.org

Interim Pastor Robert Neubert
Director of Music Ministry: Jesse Cook
Office Coordinator: Edith Sanguinetti Alben
Council President: John Mohlis

July Sermon Scriptures

July 2, 2023
Genesis 22:1-14
Matthew 10:40-42

July 9, 2023
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16, 2023
Genesis 25:19-34
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23, 2023
Genesis 28:10-19a
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30, 2023
Genesis 29:15-28
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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
PO Box 264
Oregon City OR 97045



Climate Café Events

July 31-August 4 Harvesting at Acres of Abundant Grace, 7221 S. King Rd. in Canby
Saturday August 5, noon, Climate Café "Pop-up" at Cedar Hills UCC in SW Portland.
Check out our Website: www.climatecafe.com

