



February 2024 Newsletter

Volume 30
Issue 2

From Pastor Joel Skindlov

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The church season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14th, Valentine's Day! I'm not quite sure how this church season and Valentine's Day might work together, but the comparison and contrast make me consider the goodness of love and relationships, while navigating the challenges and struggles of life.

As the fog remains around me on this day, I noticed the shrub, the bush in my backyard. It does not have any leaves on it. It does not look stunning, bejeweled with leaves and berries that will turn a tremendous red color. Stark, empty, still. These words describe its current state, yet moving toward the spring, life, and new growth.

The church season of Lent means "spring", yet we'll begin this season, this time, these weeks, in the midst of Winter. Notice the tree outside Prince of Peace on the northeast corner or almost any leaf bearing tree around us. I'm not sure what type of tree the one at Prince of Peace is called, but its barren branches reveal its structure, its shape, yet the tree seems different. Just as this tree and shrub change, we move into a church season that can reflect the seasons of our lives. Lent offers a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal in our relationship with Christ and one another. We go through Lent toward Easter. We go through Lent instead of around this time, we go through instead of stopping short. It can be hopeful and painful at the same time. Lent offers both newness and the reality of the bleakness and sadness that are part of life.

Jesus tells the story of a fig tree in Luke that gets at the pruning, tending, and patience in tree and shrub care and also our relationships and connections with God, ourselves and those around us. How does the Bible passage below engage you? What responses do you notice?

"Then Jesus told this parable, "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'

"He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down" (Luke 13:6-9, NRSV).

I take this passage from Luke chapter 13:6-9 and already Jesus has and continues to do and say many things. The context of this parable story allows for different perspectives, different themes: the counting of time, what does bearing fruit look like? Is this person too quick or slow to tell the gardener to cut down the tree? What words or images do you pay most attention to? What might we make of the gardener's response?

It seems that both truth telling and judgment and patience and mercy are at work in this story. I wonder if Lent can hold both judgment and mercy, confession and forgiveness, self examination and openness to new creation together? What part of the shrub do I need to prune? What type of nutrients do I need to help enliven the soil of my heart, soul, and body?

I hope and pray that these 40 days offer us an opportunity to notice Christ's presence, both to tell the truth and also to proclaim God's gracious and powerful grace and life. We proclaim and embody God's enduring presence in the midst of struggles and strife as we follow Christ. What might be the fruit that we bear? What might be the ways the Holy Spirit taps us on the shoulder both to prune and provide? Thanks be to God as Christ continues to meet us as we walk together through this Lenten season.

Peace, Pastor Joel

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Caritas Needs For February

Food:
Small peanut butter jars, jelly/jam, pancake mix, syrup, cereal, canned tuna/chicken, individual trail mix, meat sticks, granola bars, boxed meals, hearty soups, ramen and chili.

Necessities:
Toothpaste, wrapped toothbrushes, deodorant, little lotions and dish soap (non perishables)
Please don't tie bags shut!
Caritas Outreach Ministries,
1228 W. Nebraska, Spokane, WA 99205



From The President

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Romans 12:12

The past couple of years seem to have flown by. Yes, they have gone quickly and have included many joys as well as challenges. As my time on the leadership team is wrapping up, I want to start by giving thanks to God for all of his blessings we have received at Prince of Peace. I also want to thank God for the incredible individuals who have served with me on the Executive team and church Council - they have been exceptional and amazing to work with.

But just as important, I want to note the many wonderful people who are all a part of the family of Prince of Peace. It never ceases to amaze me how God works in bringing us together to make miracles happen. We are so blessed as a community of faith; and with God's faith in us, He continues to provide us with new opportunities for growth and outreach.

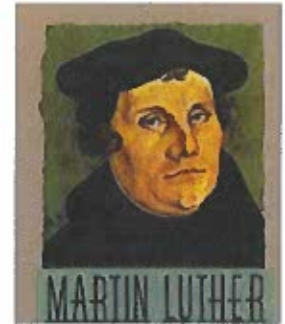
Thank you for the opportunity and honor to serve as President. As God continues his work with us and through us, I give thanks and pray for his continued blessings upon each of you!

In His service,

Karen Chaffins

Martin Luther Quotes

*"My heart, which is so full to overflowing,
has often been solaced and refreshed
by music when sick & weary"*



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church publishes a monthly newsletter for members, friends and churches in the area. News articles, address changes, questions or comments should be addressed to:

Newsletter Editor

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8441 N. Indian Trail Road
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STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Joel Skindlov
Office Manager: Ami Elliott
Music Director: Janet Robel
Custodian: Mark Smith
Preschool Directors:
Sue Cole & Stephanie Perreiah

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service - 9:00 am
*Worship currently also streamed on FB at
"Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane"*
Fellowship- 10:15 am
Sunday School 10:30 am

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Office closed on Fridays
Memorial Day-Labor Day Weekends



Saturday, February 17, 2024

POP Fellowship Hall

7am- Start cooking

7:30am-Enjoy breakfast & discussion

Serving You This Month

February	Altar Guild	Worship Assistants	Altar Flowers	Media	Ushers	Communion Servers	Fellowship
4	Sue & Paul Parrish	John Renford		Matt Christoff	Mel Nebelsieck & Doug Elliott	Sue Parrish	The Christoffs
11	Holly Christoff	Cliff Hendrickson	Frank & Holly Christoff	Bernie Polikowsky		Holly Christoff	The Tamas
18	Karen Heimbigner	Mike Sanborn	No Flowers-Lent	Erica & Lee Salkin	Paul & Sue Parrish		Jan Gilliam
25	Ginny Zimmerman	Joy Liezen	No Flowers-Lent	Andrew Liezen			

Bible Readings for the Month

Sunday, February 4

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31
 Psalm: 147:1-11, 20c
 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
 Gospel: Mark 1:29-39



Sunday, February 11

1st Reading: 2Kings 2:1-12
 Psalm: 50:1-6
 2nd Reading: 2Corinthians 4:3-6
 Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Sunday, February 18

1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalm: 25:1-10
 2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

Sunday, February 25

1st Reading: Genesis 17:1-7,15-16
 Psalm: 22:23-31
 2nd Reading: Romans 4:13-25
 Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

Birthdays	Anniversaries
February 6- Judy Reihman February 7- Lindy Moeller February 9- Paul Parrish February 10- Debra Trujillo-Gilbert February 25- Seth Feist February 26- Luke Bauernfeind Janice Hodneland February 28- Janet Robel February 29- Mike Sanborn	February 10- Frank & Holly Christoff

News from POP



Mark the Dates!

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Annual Meeting

(right after worship service)

To Ponder:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Therefore God gave them up

Romans 1: 18-20, 24a

"There are only two kinds of people—those who say 'Thy will be done' to God or those to whom God in the end says, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell choose it. Without that self-choice it wouldn't be Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it."

C.S. Lewis



FINANCIAL UPDATE

	INCOME	EXPENSES	TOTAL Income/(Loss)
December 2023	\$ 26,424.78	\$ 23,930.94	\$ 2,493.84
2023 Year to Date	\$ 357,463.57	\$347,819.90	\$ 9,643.67

Current monthly PROFIT & LOSS statements are located on the Council bulletin board opposite the office.

Once upon a time (actually right now) a lonely bookcase is sitting in the hallway across from the church. The bookcase is looking for jigsaw puzzles and books to share. Please don't let this poor, lonely bookcase stand empty and forgotten. All it wants is to have someone bring their used puzzles and books to put on its shelves. And then, hopefully, people will start visiting our little bookcase and take a puzzle or book home and exchange it with a new (used) puzzle or book to share with someone else. The bookcase will enjoy the company and not be lonely anymore.
The end

*Thank
You*

"Thanks to everyone for the cards, calls and especially your prayers. My surgery went well and your support is so appreciated. I look forward to seeing everyone in person again soon!"

Karen Chaffins

Lenten Schedule



Shrove Tuesday:

February 13 Pancake Dinner at 6:00 pm

Ash Wednesday:

February 14 at 12pm and 7pm

Ashes to Go 7am-8:30am & 3pm-5pm

Mid-Week Lenten Services:

February 21 & 28, March 6, 13 & 20 at 7pm

(Soup Supper at 6:00 pm)

Shrove Tuesday

Join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed on February 13 at 6 pm.

Menu will include Pancakes, sausage, fruit and drinks.

If you are will to flip pancakes that evening, please let Church Family Fellowship know.



Lenten Soup Suppers

Lenten Soup Suppers begin on Wednesday, February 21 at 6:00 before the Lenten church service.

Check out the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board near the kitchen. Sign up for soup or bread on any the 5 nights. Hosts can be a committee or a couple people willing to set up and clean up. Many people join in during the clean-up.



Preschool 2024-2025 Registration

Fall Registration for Church and Preschool families begins Monday, February 5th. Registration forms are available in the Church Office. Or on the website. Registration for the public begins Monday, March 4th. Remember we cannot hold spaces unless you enroll. Our classes fill up quickly.



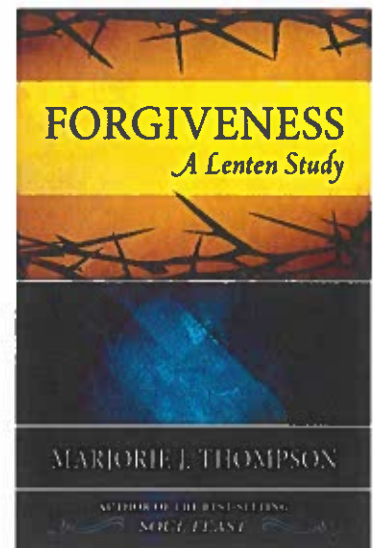
Why forgiveness? What makes forgiveness so difficult? How might forgiveness offer life and healing?

Join us to learn and discuss the promises and challenges of forgiveness as followers of Christ!

A sign up is available at the back table in the sanctuary. Books will be available for purchase.

We'll meet beginning Sunday, Feb. 18th after Worship for six sessions.

Questions? Contact Pastor Joel,
poppastor@popspokane.org



Sunday, February 11 Souper Bowl Sunday

Since the Super Bowl falls the same day as our monthly Caritas donation, let's add a twist. You can donate food items from the needs list provided, bring a can (or 2 of soup), or put some spare change in the soup pots marked with the teams playing in the game. All money collected will be used to buy grab and go snacks for the Prince of Peace pantry!

List of CARITAS needs on the front page of the Newsletter!



Caritas help wanted

It has been a hectic start to our New Year already. Caritas is looking to fill some positions:

Wednesday from 8:10 9:30ish--through May. Ride along with another volunteer to grocery store, collect donated food, bring back to Caritas and weigh. Involves bending, stooping, lifting (less than 50 lbs.)

Wednesday Distribution--On Going

9-2--set up, walk client through & clean up

For those who continually support Caritas Food Bank, I want to Thank You--words cannot express how I feel when I see food or monetary donations come in. I always say a "special" Thank You and Gratitude for our blessings.

Chris Tabat, Executive Director staff@caritasoutreachministries.org 509-326-2249



Northwest Intermountain Synod

REGIONAL GATHERINGS 2024

FUNDING FORWARD:

STEWARDSHIP FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Ezra 3:10-13

In this passage, we meet the Israelites as they are trying to find their 'new normal' after the destruction of the first temple and the rebuilding of the second. There is a mix of both grief and hope in the air as the foundation is being laid. This passage reminds us to tend to the variety of emotions present as we tend to the work of innovation in the church today.

We are excited to invite you to one of Regional Gatherings this coming spring. This will be an opportunity to learn together, to reconnect with friends and build relationships with people from neighboring congregations.

April 27, 2024 - Advent Lutheran Church - Spokane Valley, WA

Our presenter is **Grace Pomroy** who is the Director of the Stewardship Leaders Program at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. She's a lay, millennial stewardship leader, speaker, and financial educator based in Allyn, WA. She is the co-author of the stewardship book, *Embracing Stewardship: How to Put Stewardship at the Heart of Your Congregation's Life*, as well as author of the 2013 ELCA stewardship resource, "Stewards of God's Love." She is currently working on a book about alternative financial models for ministry with Fortress Press, an imprint of 1517 Media.

Questions? Contact Pastor Joel,
poppastor@popspokane.org

Bible Study: 9:30 am Wednesday, February 7, 2024



Quilts for Kids: 9:00 am Tuesday, February 13, 2024



Charity Quilters: 9:00 am Tuesdays, February 27, 2024



Please join the women for these monthly events. Also, before leaving any fabric, speak with a quilter about what they could really use to complete quilts.






Craft Fair Funds Dispersal

It is time to disperse the funds raised our 2023 Craft Show. We need your feedback by February 11. We raised \$3731.00.

Last year we gave \$500 each to the following organizations that support Women and Children in our community. Transitions, Women's and Children's Free Restaurant, Life Services, Hope School for the Deaf, JOYA, and Maddie's Place. Family Promise of Spokane received \$500 and received matching funds to make the donation \$1500.00. Meals on Wheels and Caritas each received \$250.

Donations will go to the same organizations unless we hear back from you with other suggestions. Please let the church office or Peggy Renford know your ideas.

February 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 1:00 pm Bible Study	2	3
4 ANNUAL MEETING 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane"	5	6 5:30 pm Praise Group 7:00 pm All Committee Night	7 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 6:15 pm Men's Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	8 1:00 pm Bible Study	9	10
11 CARITAS SUNDAY 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane" 	12 1:00 pm Executive Council	13 9:00 am Quilts for Kids 5:30 pm Praise Group 6:00pm Shrove Tuesday 	14 VALENTINES DAY Ash Wednesday Services 12pm & 7pm 6:25 pm Men's Choir Adult Choir after service 	15 1:00 pm Bible Study	16 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	17 7:00 am Men's Breakfast
18 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane"	19 OFFICE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY 6:30 pm Council Meeting	20 5:30 pm Praise Group	21 6:00 pm Soup Supper 6:25 pm Men's Choir Adult Choir after service 7:00 pm Mid-week Service	22 1:00 pm Bible Study	23	24
25 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane"	26	27 9:00 am Charity Quilters 5:30 pm Praise Group 	28 6:00 pm Soup Supper 6:25 pm Men's Choir Adult Choir after serv 7:00 pm Mid-week Service	29 1:00 pm Bible Study		



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

