



PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2026 Newsletter

Volume 32
Issue 4

From Pastor Joel Skindlov

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

(John 13:34-35, NRSVUE). Jesus washes the disciples' feet, taking the stance of a servant and offering this new, yet old commandment to love one another, just as Jesus loves us.

The beginning of April looks toward The Three Days of Maundy (Holy) Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. The story reveals Jesus' identity as the Son of God who takes the form and position of a servant to wash the disciples' feet, handing himself over to the religious and political authorities as Jesus puts the leaders on trial, even as he is arrested, beaten and publicly humiliated and killed, crucified on a cross.

The season of Lent and these past 40 days serve as the preparation for these Three Days. The mystery, majesty and promise of God with us, God coming near, God made flesh in Jesus reveals the crescendo and both the agony of Jesus' death and the promise that not even death and the grave would or could hold Jesus in its bonds!

What do you notice about these stories? Over 2,000 years ago the first disciples witness these events and they are easy to keep at arm's reach, kept in a dusty book of history.

The Bible, as Word of God and a living document, reveals the God we know in Jesus, as faithful and forgiving, powerful, yet obedient, gracious, yet strong.

These Gospel stories still can serve as powerful and current interactions between God's story and our stories, stories of awe and wonder, resonating both with the tragedy and triumph of our lives and world today. The Jewish carpenter, son of Joseph and Mary, calling the disciples to follow Him, while also proclaiming the

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POP Pantry Needs For April

Food:
Small peanut butter jars, jelly/jam, pancake mix, syrup, cereal, canned tuna/chicken, individual trail mix, meat sticks, granola bars, soup, & boxed meals.

Necessities:
Toothpaste, wrapped toothbrushes, deodorant, little lotions and dish soap

Hate shopping? Cash Donations can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the office in an envelope, marked "Caritas Pantry" and a volunteer will do the shopping for you!



Thoughts From The Council President

April is now upon us and we are coming to the end of our annual journey toward Easter. Hallelujah Christ is Risen.

As I reflect on this journey towards the cross I think of our Gospel Acclamation these past weeks. We sang "Lord let my heart be good soil"

and I find an attachment to that song that continues to stir in my heart. I find myself singing the words almost every day. It's a self evaluation

of how I have or have not loved God, family or friends and also a prayer asking God to open my heart and break away the hardness.

While attending the Catholic Mass during the WCC tournament there was a similar song with these words, "Change our Hearts this time, your word says it can be,

change our minds this time, your life could make us free".

Christ's sacrifice on the Cross provides forgiveness and new life. Let us take his sacrifice and draw closer to God and Let our Hearts be Good Soil.

Easter Blessings to you and your family,

Susan Ames

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:

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STAFF

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service – 9:30 am
Worship currently also streamed on FB at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane"
Fellowship– 10:30 am

OFFICE HOURS

Monday– Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



Saturday, April 18, 2026

POP Fellowship Hall

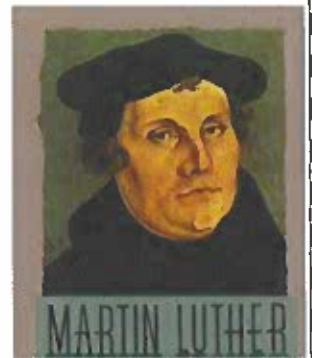
7am- Start cooking
7:30am-Enjoy breakfast & discussion

Serving You This Month

April	Altar Guild	Communion Servers	Worship Assistants	Altar Flowers	Media	Ushers	Fellowship
5 Easter	Paul & Sue Parrish	Sue Parrish & Ginny Zimmerman	Kathy Fleiger	Elliott	Bernie Polikowsky	Doug Elliott & Frank Christoff	Easter Brunch
12	Rebecca Hendrickson & Jan Gilliam	Rebecca Hendrickson	Mike Sanborn		John Renford & Ami Elliott	Joe Rock	Holly Christoff
19	Holly Christoff	Holly Christoff	Holly Christoff		Matt Christoff	Sue & Paul Parrish	Sanborn
26	Susan Ames	Susan Ames	Susan Ames		Bernie Polikowsky		

Luther's Prayers

Oh God help that we may without faltering do all these petitions. Let us never doubt that you have heard us and will hear us again in this prayer, and that it shall be yes and not no nor maybe. Therefore we gladly say amen, which means true and certain. Amen.



Bible Readings for the Month

Sunday, April 5

1st Reading:
Psalm: 118:1-2,14-24
2nd Reading:
Gospel:



Sunday, April 12

1st Reading: Acts 2:14a,22-32
Psalm: 16
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 19

1st Reading: Acts 2:14a,36-41
Psalm: 116:1-4,12-19
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23
Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, April 26

1st Reading: Acts 2:42-47
Psalm: 23
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25
Gospel: John 10:1-10

News from POP

Upcoming April Events

• Pastor Joel- Office Hours

Pastor Joel will have office hours on Tuesdays 12:30pm-2:30pm & Thursdays 10am-12pm. He is also available by appointment.

Pastor Joel's #509-951-0223.

• Bible Study- Now @ Riverview Retirement Community

Join us for Bible Study on Thursdays from 1-2pm on Zoom or in person, for conversations about the Bible, faith, life and more! **We study the scripture to be used in the next Worship Service.** If you would like more information please contact the office.

509-465-0779 or popoffmgr@comcast.net

Riverview Retirement Community- Chapel, 1801 E. Upriver Dr.

Birthdays

April 3- Andrew Liezen
April 6- Qwen Akers
April 8- Orv Kirkevold
April 13- Susan Sanborn
April 16- Joan Benesch
April 18- Mary Spear
April 20- Diane Floyd

Anniversaries

April 7- Matt & Joene Liezen



To Ponder:

"Thankfully, God reads our hearts and edits our plans and our prayers so that they are far more than we would have dared to imagine. Pray, pray and pray, to the limit of your vision and faith, and then be prepared for God to do something even better." Lenten Devotional 2/27/26 Gospel in Life

Compare with 1 Cor 2:9.



Newsletter Bible Study

Monthly Invitation Paragraph

Each month this year we'll reflect together on a Scripture verse and a question that invites us to think more deeply about our faith. This year we will focus on Sharing God's Word., Hope, Community/Fellowship and Prayer and You're encouraged to share your thoughts, stories, or insights with friends and family. *The verses are from the Revised Standard Version.*

April — Sharing God's Word

Verse: "Your word is like a lamp for my feet and a light for my path."
— Psalm 119:105

Question:

How has Scripture guided you in a meaningful way this year?

Living the Resurrection! Share your story!

Living the Resurrection is a mission and vision vitality planning process that invites you to share your story about the values, mission and vision of our Prince of Peace congregation.

Three prompts will guide our conversations:

1) Value(s), Tell me about an experience that shows what you love most about our congregation.

2) Mission: Tell me about a time you engaged in God's work.

3) Vision: Share a word picture of what you think God hopes the future holds for our congregation.

The task force consisting of Matt Liezen, Holly Christoff, Cliff Hendrickson and myself, Pastor Joel, will be reaching out to people to meet one-to-one for 45 minutes to 1 hour to share their stories about these prompts. Your participation is important and appreciated! We'll collect data (words and phrases) and put them into a chart for everyone to see and vote on, using sticky colored dots. Questions? Contact one of the task force members

Financial Update

2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Our actual giving and expenses for the 1st Quarter are as follows:

January — Offering: \$18,812 / Expenses: \$31,650

February — Offering: \$20,541 / Expenses: \$24,482

March — Offering: \$22,593 / Expenses: \$25,466 (as of 3/25/2026)

Thank you for your continued support! If you have questions please talk to Marie Tamura; she'd love to chat over a mocha!

Women ^{of the} ELCA 

Bible Study: 9:30 am Wednesday, April 1, 2026



Quilts for Kids: 9:00 am Tuesday, April 14, 2026



Charity Quilters: 9:00 am Tuesdays, April 28, 2026



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.



Community Events

Save the DATE

Habitat for Humanity
Spokane

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 7, 2026

hope builders

Annual Fundraising Luncheon

Thursday, May 7 • Spokane Convention Center
 11:00AM - 12:00PM Interactive Exhibit + Silent Auction
 12:00PM - 1:00PM Programming + Lunch



Please register online!

habitat-spokane.org/HBL



Presenting Sponsor:

FREE

Mother's Day Weekend

Handbell Concerts by

Bella Cristo

Community Handbell Choir

Friday, May 8 at 7 pm
 Millwood Community Presbyterian Church
 3223 N Marguerite Rd, Spokane Valley, WA 99212

Saturday, May 9 at 2 pm
 Christ the King Lutheran Church
 1700 E Pennsylvania Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Fun music for all ages!

nearness of God's kingdom and rule.

What do you notice? What surprises you? What do you wonder about in these stories?

One thing I notice this time around is Jesus' question to the disciples on Maundy Thursday, "Do you know what I have done to you?" and then illustrates the gift and model of servanthood of servant leadership, noticing and taking the stance of a servant who does not see washing the disciples' feet as above himself, but stoops down and embodies what it looks like to be with people, walking with folks from the poor to the rich, the old and the young, serving, teaching and modeling the presence of the kingdom of God.

One thing that surprises me in the story of Good Friday from John's gospel, is Jesus' ability to reveal both restraint and resolve in the midst of the religious and political leadership. Jesus speaks plainly to Pontius Pilate and also willingly goes to the cross to give his life for all people. In John's gospel, there is no cry from the cross. "When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit" (John 19:30, NRSV). Yet, Jesus' statement, It is finished, points to Jesus' physical presence on earth and the continuation of Christ's ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit working through us.

Have you ever seen a person, a friend or acquaintance, after the passage of some time and you didn't recognize them initially? So it was with Mary, as she goes to the tomb, looks inside and weeps because, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid him" (John 20:2, NRSV). Mary speaks with Jesus but does not recognize him, until Jesus says her name, Mary, and then she went and told the other disciples, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18, NRSV). Mary Magdalene is a disciple; she recognizes Jesus and shares her story.



Jesus calls her name and Mary responds with "I have seen the Lord!" She shares her story with the disciples and her trust in the risen Jesus propels her to spread the good news and tell her story!

Where do you find yourself in these stories? Amid the challenges and struggles, the tragedies and heartache of our lives and world, God's love and gracious power persist, empowering us to share and embody the good news of Jesus in our world and our lives.

Where might you recognize God at work in your life? What story might you share? Blessed Holy Week as we notice, consider and follow our crucified and risen Savior and Lord.

Peace,
Pastor Joel

April 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30 5:00pm Executive Council	31	1 9:30am Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Men's Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir	2 1:00pm Bible Study @ Riverview 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 Church Office Closed	4
5 EASTER SUNDAY 9:30am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran	6	7	8	9 1:00pm Bible Study @ Riverview	10 Church Office Closed	141
12 POP PANTRY SUNDAY 9:30am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane " Sunday School	13	14 9:00am Quilts for Kids 5:30pm Praise Group 	15 6:15pm Men's Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir	16 1:00pm Bible Study @ Riverview	17 Church Office Closed	18 7:00am Men's Breakfast
19 9:30am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane " 11:00am Council Meeting	20	21 5:30pm Praise Group	22 6:15pm Men's Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir	23	24 Church Office Closed	25
26 9:30am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane " Sunday School	27	28 9:00am Charity Quilters 5:30pm Praise Group 	29 6:15pm Men's Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir	30 1:00pm Bible Study @ Riverview		