



**May 18-19, 2024**

**Matthew 14:15-21**



**THRIV'ERA  
GENEROUS**

As image bearers of the Divine, we are called to be extravagantly generous human beings. We thrive as generous people by living open-handedly and open-heartedly, seeking lavish interactions with the world so that the abundance of the few can transform the scarcity of the many into a feast where all have enough.

### **WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND**

**Free (This Joy)**

**Lord Whose Love  
In Humble Service** (9:00 only)

**I Speak Jesus**

**Message: Paul Gauche**

**Living Hope** (5:30 and 10:30 only)

**Here I Am, Lord** (9:00 only)

Go as a grateful child of God,  
bringing some good to each moment,  
something better to each day,  
and our best to each other.

### **JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**

#### **Thriv'era Sermon Series**

Find study guide resources at [popmn.org/worship/downloads/](http://popmn.org/worship/downloads/)

#### **Annual Congregation Meeting**

During all worship services June 8-9.

#### **Outdoor Worship Begins June 1-2**

Saturday 5:30 pm and Sunday 10:30 am worship will be outside, weather permitting, through August.

### **JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY**

#### **Transition Blog**

Find updates at [popmn.org/category/transition-blog](http://popmn.org/category/transition-blog)

#### **Pastor of Spiritual Formation**

If you know of someone who may be interested in this position, email [callcommitteespiritualformation@popmn.org](mailto:callcommitteespiritualformation@popmn.org)

#### **Financial Forum: June 2, 10:00 am, Chapel**

Our Finance Director will answer questions about the budget.

### **JOIN US IN GENEROSITY**

**Your gift supports mission and ministry. Thank you!**



## **Connect With Us**

We are here to love God and all people by being the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in the world so that all might know that they are loved. We are an open and affirming church. We value growing a relationship with God and with each other, and showing up for people in need in this community and beyond. **Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church!**



**Connect** with  
Prince of Peace!  
Scan here to  
join our mailing list  
and find ways to  
get involved.



Scan here to  
connect with the  
Prince of Peace  
**Children's and  
Family Ministry**  
team.



Scan here to  
make a **prayer  
request** or to  
have a member  
of the Spiritual Care  
Team contact you.

From Paul Gauche's book "Welcome the Seasons | Thriv'era":

*You prepare a feast for me, a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head, pouring on oil and anointing me. My cup brims and runs over with blessings. — Psalm 23:5-16*

For some, memories of a feast include sitting with family and friends around a table, sagging under the weight of food and beverages. For others, a feast is having enough food to make it through today. Thriving together around a table assumes a willingness to move away from the deadly culture of "Us vs. Them" to create a healthier and more whole culture of "We," where everyone has a seat at the feast.

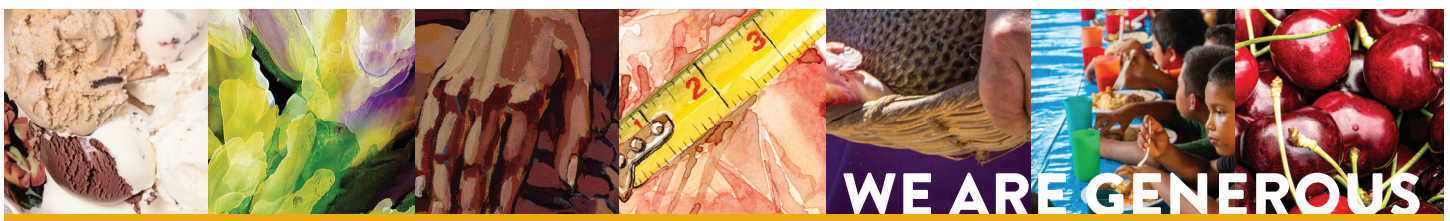
Creating the kind of world where everyone has enough is not wishful, naïve thinking. There is an ancient precedence. Psalm 23:5-6 describes a feast that isn't as segregated as our imaginations lead us to believe. I grew up with the idea that the "table prepared for me in the presence of my enemies" was set for me and only me. I even heard those words with a bit of an entitled edge. You know what I mean. I'm at the table, and my enemies aren't. Good for me.

But what if "my enemies" are thinking the same thing? What if I'm their enemy? And what if the "table prepared for me in the presence of my enemies" is an invitation to a feast for everyone ... prepared for everyone ... in the midst of everyone? What if, in the act of feasting together, the concept of enemies evaporates in the magnitude of the grace of that feast?

I imagine a feast table. Everyone is looking around and thinking: "How did those people get in here? Who invited them?" Then, a voice begins to speak: "Welcome, everyone!"

Welcome, everyone. Left alone, we would always be the center of our own universe. "Me" would be the most important word we know. But when we gather together and make room for everyone, the table expands, and the feast continues.

- Have you ever experienced a feast that challenged your perspective on inclusivity? When has your place at the table, either literally or figuratively, been a result of privilege or exclusivity?
- Have you ever been unwelcome at a (literal or figurative) table? How did that feel? How do experiences like that shape your understanding of community and shared blessings?
- Does your perception change when an open invitation (to a feast, to worship, to work, to community, etc) is extended to those you may perceive as enemies? Do you believe that the concept of "enemy" can fade away in the grace of a shared experience? Why, or why not?



**A Generous Prayer:** *Gracious God, we are grateful that you continue to create and recreate us in your image; we acknowledge that you are the One breathing the fresh breeze of your Spirit into each one of us, that you call us into deeper connections with others, and that you fill every present moment of our lives with life and more life. Equip us to respond with gratitude for your generous and extravagant love that sets us free to be your missional people in this world.*

**A Generous Manifesto:** *We believe in the power of generosity. We believe that by living generously, we encourage an open-hearted Spirit in the world. We believe that living with open hearts leads to living with open hands. We believe that we thrive as generous people of God when we seek lavish interactions with the world around us, so that the abundance of the few can transform the scarcity of the many into a feast where all have enough.*