



PRINCE OF PEACE
Love God. Love People.

June 1–2, 2024
Philippians 4:1-9



Conflict **The Jesus Way**

WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

House of the Lord

Ancient Gates

The Jesus Way

Message: Paul Dean

Communion

Oceans

Go in peace, and remember
that you are all brothers
and sisters in Christ.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Outdoor Worship!

Saturday 5:30 pm and Sunday 10:30 am worship will be outside, weather permitting, through August. Bring a lawn chair!

If we are unable to hold our services outside due to weather, we will alert you through the home page of our website and on our social media.

Annual Congregation Meeting: June 8-9 during worship

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY

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

Our Finance Director will answer questions about the budget.

JOIN US FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

Volunteers needed for VBS Family Night Picnic, June 13.

Contact Dawn at dridgway@popmn.org if you can help!

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.

PAPER COPIES OF THESE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CONNECT DESK.

CONFLICT

Philippians 4:1-9

Conflict is a part of life, no matter where we are. Where people are present, so is conflict. Avoiding conflict leads us to twisted places, like passive aggressive behavior. Seeking conflict isn't healthy, either, with people out looking for a fight that really doesn't need to happen. We see this unfolding in our politics all the time.

Have you ever been in a situation when conflict is inevitable? When people have differing goals or different perspectives? Different life experiences, expectations, or values? What do you do in a situation like that? Take some time to think about experiences you've had and solutions you've found, and discuss them with your family or friends. What does this ancient story actually look like in your life?

In the story, two women – Euodia and Syntyche – are not getting along, and we can only guess the reason. Perhaps one was a conservative Jewish hardliner, critical of Greek behavior, and the other a more Hellenist progressive? Did one support Paul and his teachings, while the other did not? Did this conflict develop from pride or ambition?

Read the text slowly, ask yourself questions about what's not there, and imagine what was going on in their heads. Do they seem to be engaged in a power struggle to increase their influence over the church? Who was "more faithful"? Who was "more right"? Does it matter?

Churches have struggled with this since the beginning. So have families, spouses, coworkers, friends. Paul writes this letter to remind us that there is the way through. We have the same mind in Christ, he says. Focus on that. Not on who is more faithful, or who is more right, or who is to blame. Focus on humility and servanthood for the good of the gospel. God is in the redeeming, restoring, and reconciling business, and people are getting in the way. The people in this story seem willing to burn it all down if they don't get their way. Paul handles this by reminding them of their identity: Who are you? Are you in Christ, or not?

What do you think? Is it possible for us to have the same mind in Christ? What does that mean? What do we mean by "us"? Who does that include, and who does it leave out? Should this make us uncomfortable? Does it require compromise? Is that okay? How much compromise is too much? How do you know?

Paul reminds us to be gentle with one another. Gentleness is not just reserved for family, friends or for those who agree with you. Aristotle, who would have greatly influenced Paul, describes a gentle person as someone who "does what is equitable, and who does not stand on his rights unduly, but is content to receive a smaller share although he has the law on his side."

Is this in our nature, being content to receive a smaller share of anything? Is it in our nature to be gentle even in disagreement? Is it easy to be gentle? Is gentleness a strength or a weakness, and why? What would change if Euodia and Syntyche took a breath, and took a moment to recognize each other as faithful people? What happens when we encounter faithful people who hold their values differently?

Imagine a world in which we didn't rejoice at whatever arrows we were slinging. What if we rejoiced instead in a God who has been amazingly, even foolishly, generous to all of us? What do you think would actually change if we approached conflict with gentleness instead of impatience and anger?