

Dr. Frank Turek is Coming to the Portland area this Fall!

Sponsored by Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (LCMS), Internationally known Christian Apologist, Dr. Frank Turek, will be bringing his presentation, "I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist", to Sonrise Church (6701 NE Campus Way Dr, Hillsboro, OR 97124) on Sunday night, October 20, 2024 at 6:00pm.

This event is being created and sponsored by Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (LCMS) in west Portland in response to a growing concern of, at best, misunderstanding and, at worst, antagonism among an increasing number of people in our Portland area communities about the truth of who God is and what He is doing in the world. We want to provide an opportunity for those with questions to hear first-hand the compelling evidence for the truth of the Bible, and the reality of God's power and presence in our lives. Sonrise Church has agreed to partner with us in this event for the sake of the Gospel, and to provide a venue with enough seating to accommodate the expected attendance.

Over the last fifty years there has been a precipitous drop in the percentage of Christians in the United States. In the 1970's the Christian population was approximately 90%. As of 2024 only 64% of Americans now self-identify as Christian, and Pew Research Center predicts that number could fall below 50% in the next few decades. According to a recent survey, approximately half of the people living in the Pacific Northwest say religion is not important to them.

While there may be a multitude of reasons for people leaving their faith, one undeniable contributing factor, is that we live in a more accessible, diverse, and mobile world today. Christian Podcaster, Carey Nieuwhof, has stated, "the advent of the internet and social media opened the doors to a multitude of voices, perspectives, and experiences." One consequence of these numerous voices has been an increased, direct assault on Christian beliefs. The challenges are as numerous as the forms of content: memes, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Twitter, books, billboards, professors, teachers, and movies. These rhetorically powerful, but factually incorrect statements, have the potential to effectively erode the foundations of faith for the unprepared Christian.

Sadly, many Christians are unfamiliar with "the mountain of evidence for the Christian faith which towers over that of any religious system or spiritual counterfeit," thereby limiting their ability to counter these misleading arguments with verifiable facts. The impact of such attacks is highlighted by the fact that half of those polled listed "lack of belief" as

their reason for walking away from the church. As Frank Turek, of CrossExamined.org, states in his podcast, "They don't think Christianity is true. They're being talked out of it. You know why they are talked out of it, because they've never been talked into it." Apologetics provides a platform to help Christians maintain their faith in the face of challenges.

In response to the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, and the admonition of 1 Peter 3:15 which tells us, "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (LCMS) is organizing this apologetics presentation by Dr. Frank Turek.

Dr. Turek will share his "I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist" presentation in the Portland area on Sunday, Oct 20, 2024. For Christians, the presentation will provide practical tools to logically articulate the rational arguments for God and a life in Christ. For the non-Christians, the goal is to place a "pebble in the shoe" by pointing out the deficiency of misleading world views, which may lead to deeper exploration and further study regarding the truth of the Bible, and ultimately to a relationship with Christ. We hope to draw participation from the Christian community in the entire Portland metro region, and ideally also expose a multitude of non-believers to Christianity.

For more information visit the "Events" section of our website at: <u>https://princeofpeacelc.org/</u> Or contact the Church Office at:

Sponsoring Congregation: **PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)** 14175 NW Cornell Rd. Portland, OR 97229 <u>office@princeofpeacelc.org</u> (503) 645-1211

Hosting Site: SONRISE CHURCH 6701 NE Campus Way Dr, Hillsboro, OR 97124 (503) 640-2449

To become a *prayer partner* or to join us as a *Partner Congregation* contact our Church Staff: Pastor Dan Haugen: <u>pastor@princeofpeacelc.org</u> Family Life Educator Jeff Kranich: jeff@princeofpeacelc.org

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