



Not Another Year-End List

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

2022 is winding down and the “Best of 2022” lists are starting to show up in the news. Best movies, person of the year, best new television shows, best new songs, best new food trends, etc. Lots of lists. You get the idea.

Predictions for 2023 are also all the rage. Will there be a recession in 2023? (Economists from six different banks this week had six different opinions on the matter.) What will happen in International Relations? Is COVID 19 finally winding down or will it rise again in the form of a new variant?

I always feel a little intimidated by the content for the first newsletter article of the calendar year. Do I help to cast a vision for the ministry of the congregation? Do I list and comment on the current state- of-affairs in the world? Do I try to predict the unique opportunities or challenges that I think the coming year will place before us?

I’m not sure I’m qualified to make such predictions. Instead, I want to share three observations that gave me joy/made me grateful this last past week that I hope to carry forward as “wisdom gained” for the coming year. Maybe you might find it useful too.

Number 1. Be grateful for “little blessings”.

On Christmas Eve, the ice on the sidewalk in front of the church was beginning to melt but was still quite persistent. I wanted things to be safe for Candlelight Services at 11:00 p.m., so at mid-day, I drove down to the church and

Readings for the Month

Monday, January 2,
2023: Psalm 20; Genesis
12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12

Tuesday, January 3,
2023: Psalm 72; Genesis
28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-
22

Wednesday, January 4,
2023: Psalm 72; Exodus
3:1-5; Hebrews 11:23-31

Thursday, January 5,
2023: Psalm 72; Joshua
1:1-9; Hebrews 11:32-12:2

Friday, January 6,
2023: Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 7,
2023: Psalm 72; 1 Kings
10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-
21

Sunday, January 8,
2023: Baptism of the Lord

Monday, January 9,
2023: Psalm 89:5-37;
Genesis 35:1-15; Acts
10:44-48

Tuesday, January 10,
2023: Psalm 89:5-37;
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-
13

Wednesday, January 11,
2023: Psalm 89:5-37;
Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew
12:15-21

Thursday, January 12,
2023: Psalm 40:1-11;
Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians
1:6-12

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started to put down “ice-melt” pellets. When I arrived, it was misting a little bit and I was just wearing a hoodie. As soon as I started to cast the pellets, the skies opened up and it began to rain like crazy. I got drenched. When I came back inside the church, I said to myself, “Wish I had a towel.” Immediately, I looked to my left, there was a large towel right where the de-icer was kept. How it got there, I don’t know, but I was so grateful as I dried my drenched head. Not exactly a Christmas miracle, but it made me smile. Sometimes, your little prayers are answered right away. Acknowledge them with gratitude.

Number 2. Be especially kind to those who are fearful or shy.

Last Thursday, I went to pick up my Great Pyrenees “Izzy” from doggie daycare. (Yes, I take her to doggie daycare three days a week. I’m one of those dog owners!) When I arrived to pick her up, a couple of the caregivers called me over and said, “Izzy made a friend today.” They showed me a video that they had recorded on their phone. Apparently, a new dog, a little Chihuahua mix, was having a tough first day and was quite fearful of the bigger dogs. Izzy cautiously came over to her, performed a play bow, and gently invited her to play. If you want to smile, just watch a 105lb livestock guard dog tenderly playing with a 7lb, nervous lap dog until they were no longer afraid. (As a side note, Izzy has always liked Chihuahuas. One of her best buds when she was being fostered before we adopted her was a little guy named “Mr. Dinky”.) I felt like a proud parent after a

really positive parent teacher conference. She was modeling behavior that we should all aspire to. Izzy got extra toppings on her dinner that night.

Number 3. Be thoughtful: It can be both contagious and effective.

I was driving back down I-5 South from Costco, where traffic from Elligson Road merges onto the freeway. In the evening, there is almost always a back-up. Two things usually happen. Either southbound drivers don’t make room for merging drivers, or they do. Usually there is some combination of the two. Traffic was especially heavy, but that evening, everybody seemed to get it. Each car or truck realized that it was not only gracious, but incredibly effective for the southbound freeway cars to make room for each vehicle trying to merge in. It was almost like a magnificently choreographed dance as each vehicle seamlessly took their turn, like a giant zipper. The slowdown was much shorter. The common good usually requires people to work together.

Wisdom is all around us. You just have to take the time and pay attention. In 2023, I aspire to be more aware of what God is trying to teach me in the everyday things of life and to share them with others. I hope these three simple observations from my week speak to you.

May God bless you all this coming year.

Peace!

Pastor Craig

Council Highlights

Thanks to faithful giving, we are around \$4,000 ahead of budgeted general fund giving for the year. Additionally, careful use of our financial resources means we continue to be able to fund existing ministries, as well as new opportunities that may arise.

Building Project Updates

- Electrical work in the parsonage is completed, including inspection & payment.
- Electrical work in the church (updated panels & ADA door wiring) needs a minor fix to pass inspection. We are actively working on picking out an ADA door kit.
- Plumbing in the parsonage is in the bidding stage, with the focus now being on the upstairs bathroom and kitchen--the whole house doesn't need to be re-piped.
- The list of deferred maintenance updates in the church, which is being considered since the plumbing project promises to be less costly, includes, in addition to projects already under consideration the following: improving sidewalks (leveling, widening where needed, etc.), hiring an arborist, replacing fluorescent lights in the sanctuary soffits and downstairs main area.

The Altar Care team has been working on finding a source for updated (white) paraments. This project will be lifted up to the congregation in the new year.

Council Thank you goes to all our generous coffee hosts, who provide the goodies that provide an excuse to linger for the fellowship we enjoy so much.

Readings for the Month

Friday, January 13,
2023: Psalm 40:1-11;
Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5

Saturday, January 14,
2023: Psalm 40:1-11; 1
Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, January 15,
2023: Second Sunday after
the Epiphany

Monday, January 16,
2023: Psalm 40:6-17;
Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28;
Acts 8:26-40

Tuesday, January 17,
2023: Psalm 40:6-17;
Isaiah 53:1-12;
Hebrews 10:1-4

Wednesday, January 18,
2023: Psalm 40:6-17;
Isaiah 48:12-21;
Matthew 9:14-17

Thursday, January 19,
2023: Psalm 27:1-6;
1 Samuel 1:1-20;
Galatians 1:11-24

Friday, January 20,
2023: Psalm 27:1-6; 1
Samuel 9:27-10:8;
Galatians 2:1-10

Saturday, January 21,
2023: Psalm 27:1-6;
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13;
Luke 5:27-32

Sunday, January 22,
2023: Third Sunday after the
Epiphany

Monday, January 23,
2023: Psalm 27:7-14;
Judges 6:11-24;
Ephesians 5:6-14

Giving Synopsis thru November 30, 2022

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

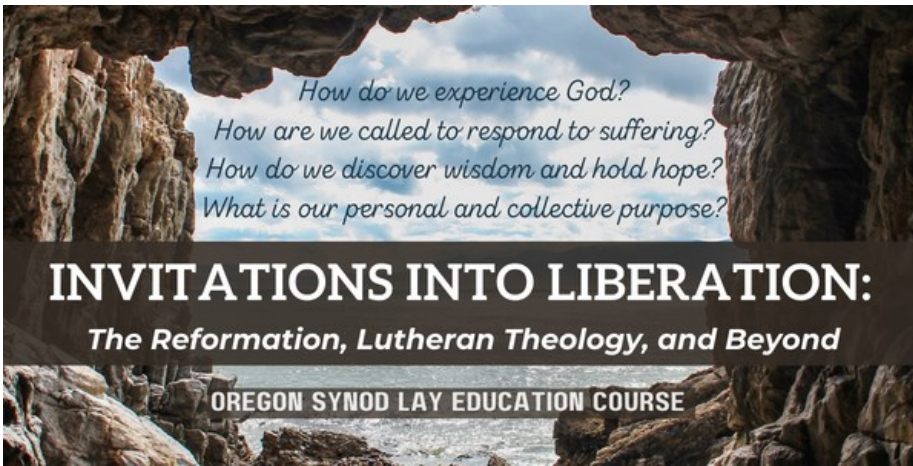
Actual Offering July—November 2022

\$81,139.82

Offering Budget

\$72,916.67

Thank you for your generosity!!



Readings for the Month

Tuesday, January 24,
2023: Psalm 27:7-14;
Judges 7:12-22;
Philippians 2:12-18

Wednesday, January 25,
2023: Psalm 27:7-14;
Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26;
Luke 1:67-79

Thursday, January 26,
2023: Psalm 15;
Deuteronomy 16:18-20;
1 Peter 3:8-12

Friday, January 27,
2023: Psalm 15;
Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4;
1 Timothy 5:17-24

Saturday, January 28,
2023: Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4;
John 13:31-35

Sunday, January 29,
2023: Fourth Sunday after
the Epiphany

Monday, January 30,
2023: Psalm 37:1-17;
Ruth 1:1-18; Philemon 1-25

Tuesday, January 31,
2023: Psalm 37:1-17;
Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6

Gather with others from around the Oregon Synod as we "do theology" together. This on-line course will meet on **seven Thursday evenings from 6:30-8 pm beginning January 5** and then on **one Tuesday evening, February 21**. [Flyer](#). Course participants and/or their congregations are encouraged to donate, as they are able, on a sliding scale between \$20-\$160, but donations are not required to participate. [Register here](#).

Service Helpers for January 2023

January 1

Reader: Carolyn Popma
Ushers: John & Lynn Ries
Donuts: Carolyn Popma

January 8

Reader: Marvis Gilnett
Ushers: Lynn Bloomfield & Ilene Marnella
Coffee Host: Marie Gunther

January 15

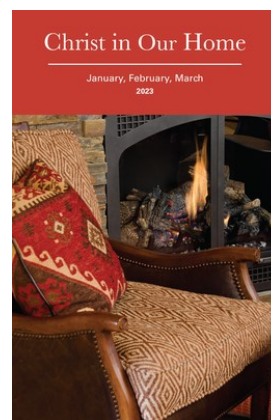
Reader: Kenton Wolfe
Ushers: Kenton & Mary Wolfe
Coffee Host: Linda Bradley

January 22

Reader: Marie Gunther
Ushers: Susan & Dale Williamson
Coffee Hosts: Lynn Bloomfield & Lonnie Harms

January 29

Reader: Burt Aus
Ushers: Burt & Judi Aus
Sweet and Savory Smorgasbord
Host: Mary Wolfe



Christ in Our Home Booklets are available in the narthex.

In Our Hearts & Prayers

Prayers for	Requested by	Prayers for	Requested by
Amy Elliot	Barb B.	Jim Popwell and Sandi	Judi Aus
Alan John & K.J.	Kimberly Pearson	Jo Miller	Kimberly Macklin
Alex Saffer /baby Oliver	PC	JoAnn Caufield	Cindy C
Angela Thompson	Cindy C	John Barr	Kimberly P.
Angelina Barker	Kim	Joyce Colvin	Susan W
Anna (Grider) Westcott	Jim & Doris Grider	Kate	PC
Barb Bannister	PC	Kim Beyers and Family	PC
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and Mary Wolfe	Larry Marnella	Ilene Marnella
Bill Lawrence	Joyce Colvin	Laurie Boyce and Family	PC
Bob and Sally Boonstra	Doris Grider	Lawson Roberts	PC
Bobbie Quidley	Barb B.	Linda Bradley	Barb
Brant Popma Family	PC	Linda Condon & family	Lynn R.
Brian Wolfe	Kenton & Mary	Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan Harms
Brooke	Heather W	Mankin family	Julie
Burt Aus	PC	Matt H	PC
Carol Smith	Helen D	Meghann, Chris & Freya	Nancy
Cindy Caufield	Mary W.	Mike Macklin	Kim Macklin
Colin Brown	Heather W	Mike McCue	Heather Wechter
Connie Robertson	Sharon Garrick	Norman Colvin	PC
Dan and Ginni Vick	Barb B.	Pastor Jane Baker, Fam-	PC
Dar & Vern Hopper	Susan W	Pat Parker	Barb B.
Dave Stegmeier	Dan and Lonnie Harms	Piper	Heather W
David M. Chamberlin	Helen D	Sandi & Robbie Helman	Terri Weaatherly
Dee	Kimberly Macklin	Sandy Lyon	Lance
Dexter Walter, family of	Kay	Shirley Ann Andreason	Ilene Marnella
Eric Wechter	PC	Shirley Grant	Julie Perilli-Minetti
Gary Erb	Barb B.	Steve F.	John R.
Greg Rivard	Kimberly Pearson	Sue Williamson	Doris Grider
Heidi Daniel and family	PC	Sylvia Peter	PC
Helen D	PC	The Russel Family	Kim
Howard & Kathy Brandt	Mary W.	Tom & Joy Nelson	Mary W.
Ian Beyers, family of	PC	Traci	Barb B.
Janine Allman Family	Dale Williamson	Travis	Helen D
Jenno Groner	Lance	Vi Anderson	Judi
Jim Grider	Dale Williamson	Victims of criminal violence	Randy Beyers

- Those with memory care issues and those who care for them.
- Those receiving radiation or chemotherapy.
- Those who are in hospice care.
- Our loved ones serving in the armed forces, especially those serving overseas.

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 am Worship 7 pm AA Meeting	2	3 6 pm AA Meeting	4	5	6	7 1 pm Ian Beyers Memorial Service
8 10 am Worship 11:15 am Mutual Ministry 7 pm AA Meeting	9	10 6 pm AA Meeting	11	12	13	14
15 10 am Worship 11:15 am Council 7 pm AA Meeting	16	17 6 pm AA Meeting	18 3:30-5pm Marion Polk Food Pantry Aurora Pythian Hall	19 Backpack Buddies	20 10 am Creative Gathering	21
22 10 am Worship 7 pm AA Meeting	23	24 6 pm AA Meeting	25	26 Pastor Craig on Vacation thru January 30	27	28
29 10 am Worship 7 pm AA Meeting	30	31 6 pm AA Meeting				

Byberg Preaching Conference Pastor Craig



January Birthdays

- Jan 1 Norman Colvin
- Jan 3 Ginger Adney
- Jan 4 Kristi Zwicker
- Jan 7 Monty Zwicker
- Jan 10 Tom Colvin
- Jan 12 Troy Bayless
- Jan 18 David Staehely
- Jan 27 Ilene Marnella
Richie Snell
- Jan 28 Jeff Groner

New Year Prayer

Thank you Lord for giving me

The brand new year ahead.

Help me live the way I should

As each new day I tread.

Give me strength and courage

So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty,

Help me fill it with good things

Each new day filled with joy

And happiness it brings.

Amen

The text "Happy New Year" is written in a large, blue, 3D-style font. The letters are decorated with small white circles and red and green stars, giving it a festive, celebratory appearance.

Happy New Year

Christ Lutheran Church
15029 2nd Street N.E.
Aurora, OR 97002
clcaurora.org
(503) 678-5135

COURIER



January 2023

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA



happy new year 2023