



## Better...Signs of Spring, Hope for the Future

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Finally, it is beginning to feel a little like spring around here. All of the trees and flowers in my yard are about three to four weeks behind their usual progress. Buds that should be blossoms are making their appearance and it looks like we will finally get at least a couple of 80 degree days in a row. Better late than never.

Even as spring arrives, there are still some remnants of winter around us. One of them is playoff hockey! My hometown of Seattle is in a frenzy over the Seattle Kraken, their new NHL team. In just their 2nd year of existence, they are more than holding their own against last year's Stanley Cup Champions, the Colorado Avalanche.

The other night, I watched part of a game with each of my brothers while on the phone. (Ian the second period, Jeff the third.). The funny thing, my cable signal was a few seconds (10-30) ahead of theirs. I found myself groaning or cheering just ahead of them. We soon realized that I knew what was going to happen. I started calling myself, "Craig from the

**Sunday Worship  
@ 10 am**

## May Readings

### Monday May 1

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:17-23  
1 Peter 5:1-5

### Tuesday May 2

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:23-31  
Hebrews 13:20-21

### Wednesday May 3

Psalm 100  
Jeremiah 23:1-8  
Matthew 20:17-28

### Thursday May 4

Psalm 31:5-15, 16  
Genesis 12:1-3  
Acts 6:8-15

### Friday May 5

Psalm 31:5-15, 16  
Exodus 31:1-12  
Acts 7:1-16

### Saturday May 6

Psalm 31:5-15, 16  
Jeremiah 26:20-24  
John 8:48-59

### Sunday May 7

Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

### Monday May 8

Psalm 102:1-17  
Exodus 13:17-22  
Acts 7:17-40

### Tuesday May 9

Psalm 102:1-17  
Proverbs 35:1-12  
Acts 7:44-56

### Wednesday May 10

Psalm 102:1-17  
Proverbs 31:3-18  
John 8:31-38

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Future!" We all got a laugh out of it, especially when the Kraken won the game to go up 3 games to 2 in a best of seven series.

The future is a hard thing to accurately anticipate, but there are people who seem to be better at it than others. (And it doesn't just rely on their internet bandwidth!) Microwave Ovens, Smart Homes, Streaming Entertainment, yes! Flying cars, jet backpacks for everyone, living on Mars, not yet.

Recently, I watched an interview conducted by David Letterman of two of the founding members of the Irish Band U2. Bono and "the Edge", their stage names, have been together as musical brothers since meeting in Dublin in the 1970's. They are well known for their music and lyrics (One, Beautiful Day, I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For) and for their charitable work, especially in Africa with AIDS prevention and treatment. When they talked about each other, Bono said of Edge tongue in cheek, "He's from the future." Unfazed, Letterman asks Bono, "Does he say what the future is like?" Not missing a beat, Bono replies, "Better."

Better. What a powerful word. It speaks hope in times of frustration or calamity. It proclaims progress toward an anticipated future. It whispers healing in times of illness. And, as 18th Century poet Alexander Pope wrote, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast". It is our very nature to be people who persist toward the way things might be.

In this season of resurrection, we hear God's promise to make things better. A time when, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:4.

In the meantime, we continue to do our work. I read a post on Facebook from a friend who works to make things better in her community. The work she does around housing is important, but hard. In addition, she was in a terrible car accident two years ago and she has had to struggle with new physical limitations. Yesterday, she wrote a post, including a

### **Thursday May 11**

Psalm 66:8-20  
Genesis 65-22  
Acts 27:1-12

### **Friday May 12**

Psalm 66:8-20  
Genesis 71-24  
Acts 27:13-38

### **Saturday May 13**

Psalm 66:8-20  
Genesis 81:3-19  
John 14:27-29

### **Sunday May 14**

Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

### **Monday May 15**

Psalm 93  
Genesis 98-17  
Acts 27:39-44

### **Tuesday May 16**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 5:22-33  
Peter 38-12

### **Wednesday May 17**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 31:1-13  
John 16:16-24

### **Thursday May 18 Ascension of the Lord**

Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

### **Friday May 19**

Psalm 93  
2 Kings 21-12  
Ephesians 21-7

### **Saturday May 20**

Psalm 93  
Kings 21:3-15  
John 8:21-30

### **Sunday May 21**

Acts 1:6-14  
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

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line from Farmer Hogget in the movie Babe, "If like me, you have a hard time turning away from the work at the end of the day, may I suggest a helpful mantra. I pack up my bag and tell myself 'That'll do pig...that'll do.' It helps." Coming from her, I was encouraged.



When signs of hope seem delayed, some days it is best to just pack up your bag, and rest in the promises of God, taking heart at the notion that working to make things better is a holy endeavor. That'll do. God's better future is just on the horizon.

Peace!

Pastor Craig

### **Monday May 22**

Psalm 99  
Leviticus 91-11 22-241  
Peter 41-6

### **Tuesday May 23**

Psalm 99  
Numbers 1641-50  
1 Peter 47-11

### **Wednesday May 24**

Psalm 99  
1 Kings 854-65  
John 331-36

### **Thursday May 25**

Psalm 3312-22  
Exodus 191-9a  
Acts 21-11

### **Friday May 26**

Psalm 3312-22  
Exodus 1916-25  
Romans 814-17

### **Saturday May 27**

Psalm 3312-22  
Exodus 201-21  
Matthew 51-12

### **Sunday May 28**

#### **Day of Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-21 or  
Numbers 11:24-30  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or  
Acts 2:1-21  
John 20:19-23 or  
John 7:37-39

### **Monday May 29**

Psalm 10424-34 35b  
Joel 218-29  
Romans 818-24

### **Tuesday May 30**

Psalm 10424-34 35b  
Ezekiel 397-8 21-29  
Romans 826-27

### **Wednesday May 31**

Psalm 10424-34 35b  
Numbers 1124-30  
John 737-39



## Service Helpers May

### May 7

Greeter Dick Kaegi

Ushers Burt and Judi Aus

Reader Burt Aus

Donuts Carolyn Popma

### May 14 Mother's Day

Ushers Lynn and John Ries

Reader Lynn Ries

Coffee Hosts Dale Williamson &  
Lance Lyon

### May 21

Ushers Dan & Lonnie Harms

Reader Dan Harms

Coffee Host Sonya Johnson

### May 26

Ushers Dale & Susan

Williamson

Reader Dale Williamson

Coffee Host Marie Gunther

## Council Highlights

- Faithful giving continues to allow us to take on as many ministries as we feel called to as well as providing for a stable base from which to work.
- Congregants interested in working on local food needs should volunteer for a new team to coordinate with Marion/Polk Food Share.
- Council will be asking for brainstorming ideas—and eventually volunteers—to celebrate the congregation's 125th anniversary around Easter of 2024.

**Thank you of the month goes to...  
the music team.**

**May Council Meeting** will be held at church on **Wednesday, May 17, 12:00-1:30pm.**

## Deadline For Annual Reports

Once again it is time to start compiling the annual report. We are asking that each committee team or group give us 4-6 bullet points that summarize what your group is all about and what you have accomplished this past year. If you want you can include members names and any goals that you may have for the coming year.

If you have a financial report that you normally share submit that too. We will then create a power point presentation using your information that can easily be shared at the annual meeting. You will be asked to make any oral presentations but if possible it would be good if someone from your committee team or group could be at the meeting on June 25th to answer any questions.

Please submit your information to the church office by Sunday morning June 4th.

## In Our Hearts & Prayers

Prayers for	Requested by
Amy Elliott	Barb B.
Angela Thompson	Cindy C
Anna (Grider) Westcott	Jim & Doris Grider
Barb Bannister	PC
Beth Brandt	Mary W.
Betty	Lisa
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and Mary Wolfe
Bob and Sally Boonstra	Doris Grider
Brant Popma Family	PC
Brian Wolfe	Kenton & Mary
Brooke	Heather W
Burt Aus	PC
Carol Smith	Helen D
Colin Brown	Heather W
Dave Stegmeier	Dan and Lonnie Harms
Dexter Walter Family	Kay
Elaine Bloomquist, family of	Helen D
Eric Wechter	PC
Evie Berg	PC
Glen Nelson	PC
Guy Bernard, family of	Helen D
Heidi Daniel and family	PC
Helen D	PC
Howard & Kathy Brandt	Mary W.
JoAnn Caufield	Cindy C
Joyce Colvin	Susan W
Kate	PC
Kylie McMinimee	Barb B.
Larry Marnella	Ilene Marnella
Laurie Boyce and Family	PC
Lawson Roberts	PC
Linda Bradley	Barb
Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan Harms
Mankin family	Julie
Margaret Schultz	Marie Gunther
Matt H	PC
Mike McCue	Heather Wechter
Norman Colvin	Nancy
Piper	Heather W
Roy Steven	Joyce
Sandi & Robbie Helman	Terri Weatherly
Shirley Ann Andreason	Ilene Marnella
Stetson McMinimee	Barb B.
Sylvia Peter	PC
Tom & Joy Nelson	Mary W.
Traci	Barb B.
Vern Hopper, family of	Susan W
Vi Anderson	Judi
Victims of violence	Lance
God's love for us all	Lisa

- 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.





Lucas Snell	5
Maria Snell	9
Corwin Ries	11
Charlie Snell	11
Greg Elliott	15
Carolyn Popma	20
Meghann Fisher	23

### **Gonna Party Like it's 1899!**

In the spring of 1899, Christ Lutheran Church in Aurora held its first official worship service. That means that next year, 2024, will mark our 125<sup>th</sup> year anniversary as a congregation.

How should we mark this important milestone?

Pastor Craig would like to put together a small planning team this summer to begin preparations for a day of celebration, festival worship, and hopes for the future.

If planning a 125 year celebration of ministry sounds like your jam, please contact Pastor Craig and we will start to plan this event for the spring of 2024!



Dan & Lonnie Harms	16
Lawson & Charlene Roberts	26

# May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6 pm AA Meeting	3	4	5	6
7 10 am Worship Endowment Committee 11:30 am 7 pm AA Meeting	8	9 6 pm AA Meeting	10	11	12	13 Colony Museum Emma Day
14 Mother's Day 10 am Worship 7 pm AA Meeting	15	16 6 pm AA Meeting	17 Council Meeting 12-1:30 pm  Food Share 3:30-5:00 pm	18 Backpack Buddies 10 am	19 Creative Gathering 10 am	20
21 10 am Worship 7 pm AA Meeting  (Pastor Craig-Rotary Conference)	22	23 6 pm AA Meeting	24	25	26	27
28 10 am Worship 7 pm AA Meeting	29	30 6 pm AA Meeting	31			

## Evelyn Carlson Memorial Garden

It is time to garden. There are opportunities to help with the garden. You can help plant bedding plants in the open areas weed the garden pick produce as it ripens and help distribute it to people who can use it. We also need people to co-ordinate the weeding harvest and distribution. If you would like to help with any of these projects please let Lance Lyon know at [lansonl.lyon@gmail.com](mailto:lansonl.lyon@gmail.com) or 503.502.8203.



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# COURIER



*May 2023*

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA

