

**Memorable Moments in History...
Magnitude, Attitude, and Gratitude**

"I feel the earth move, under my feet. I feel the sky tumbling down, a-tumbling down..." Carole King.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Here is a classic "Dad Joke" for you...What did one earthquake say to the other earthquake? "It's not my fault!"

Why a joke about earthquakes? They seem timely. I feel like every time I pick up a newspaper or read an article online, I hear about another "tectonic shift" in our world. One unprecedented event after another seems to be lining up consecutively, like waves in the ocean, to explain why the ground under our feet feels so unsteady.

In just the time that I have served as your pastor (22 years as of July 2nd), we have had a number of monumental, world-shaking events that scholars have called historical "tipping points". 9/11 with accompanying wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; the Great Recession; Historic U.S. Presidential Elections in 2008, 2016, and 2020; destabilizing social media, a once in a century Global Pandemic with millions of casualties; irreversible climate change; and extreme political strife. To top it all off, this past winter, scientists tell us that computer driven Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) has crossed a threshold that both excites and frightens experts, who believe we are not prepared for the repercussions, both economic and social.

The positives? A.I. could add as much as \$4.4 Trillion of value to the global economy.

The negatives? A.I. could put 300 million jobs worldwide immediately at risk. The really bad? 42% of CEO's at a recent Yale University CEO Summit say A.I. could destroy humanity in five to ten years!

Stephen Hawking, the renowned physicist said before his death in 2018, "The rise of artificial intelligence will be either be the best or the worst thing to ever happen to humanity.

Feel the earth shaking? Will the church be impacted? How could it not be if its members are.

I decided to take a couple of quiz's I saw online. "How likely are you to have your job replaced by artificial

Daily Readings July**Saturday, July 1**

Psalm 13; Genesis 26:23-25; Luke 17:1-4

Sunday, July 2

Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18,
Romans 6:12-23, Mat-
thew 10:40-42

Monday, July 3

Psalm 47;
Genesis 22:15-18;
1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Tuesday, July 4

Psalm 47;
1 Kings 18:36-39;
1 John 4:1-6

Wednesday, July 5

Psalm 47; Isaiah 51:1-3;
Matthew 11:20-24

Thursday, July 6

Psalm 45:10-17; Genesis
25:19-27; Romans 7:1-6

Friday, July 7

Psalm 45:10-17; Genesis
27:1-17; Romans 7:7-20

Saturday, July 8

Psalm 45:10-17; Genesis
27:18-29; Luke 10:21-24

Sunday, July 9

Zechariah 9:9-12,
Psalm 145:8-14,
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Monday, July 10

Song of Solomon 2:8-13;
Genesis 27:30-46;
Romans 1:18-25

Continued next page>

intelligence?" One quiz said that my vocation was safe. For now. The other seemed to think that much of what clergy do could easily be replaced by an A.I. program. Ouch!

Maybe it's true. A few weeks ago, the SIRI virtual assistant on my Apple Watch, powered by A.I., answered a rhetorical question I had asked the congregation in the middle of a sermon with, "I didn't get that!" Cheeky watch! A couple of weeks previous, after I had been a little snippy with my wife after losing my keys, I apologized to her in the car. Out of nowhere, SIRI on my phone says, "There's no need to apologize!" SIRI provides absolution too! I will keep an eye out for smart phone covers with clerical collars! Then I will know it is time to retire.

Life and change can be so overwhelming. Some days, it can just be too much to take in. During those times, I try to take a deep breath and realize that the psalmist was right. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well." (Ps. 139:14) I try to remember to set aside time to be grateful.

Science backs up the power of this discipline. Recent studies have shown that giving, receiving and even witnessing gratitude, can improve your well-being, especially in difficult times.

Last week I read about a woman who had been through a year so horrible that it was hard to fathom. In 2022, Stacy Batten lost her husband to cancer and her father died after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Then her mother was diagnosed with cancer. To be with her mother, she sold her home of 26 years to move from Seattle to the East Coast.

In her devastation, she noticed that she felt better when she looked for the good parts of each day. So, she took a large Mason jar and turned it into a "gratitude jar," which she now keeps at her bedside. Every night, she writes down a few things that she is grateful for on a scrap of paper and drops it inside. They are often as simple as "I met a new neighbor" or "I took a walk with the dog and my mom."

"The grief is still there," she said. "But writing those daily notes have helped."

Science and theology both support this practice.

Two decades ago, a landmark study by psychologist Robert Emmons sought to understand how people benefit from gratitude. Surprisingly, little research had been previously done on this topic. His findings? They suggested that a grateful outlook, "counting one's blessings," may improve psychological well-being and improve relationships. Further research has supported his thesis.

Multiple studies have shown that expressing gratitude to acquaintances, co-workers, friends or romantic partners can offer a relationship "boost" and helps bind us more closely," said Sara Algoe, a psychologist at the University of North

Daily Readings July

Tuesday, July 11

Song of Solomon 2:8-13;
Genesis 29:1-14;
Romans 3:1-8

Wednesday, July 12

Song of Solomon 2:8-13;
Genesis 29:31-35;
John 13:1-17

Thursday, July 13

Psalms 119:105-112;
Exodus 3:1-6;
Romans 2:12-16

Friday, July 14

Psalms 119:105-112;
Deuteronomy 32:1-10;
Romans 15:14-21

Saturday, July 15

Psalms 119:105-112;
Isaiah 2:1-4; John 12:44-50

Sunday, July 16

Isaiah 55:10-13,
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13,
Romans 8:1-11,
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Monday, July 17

Psalms 142; Micah 1:1-5;
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Tuesday, July 18

Psalms 142;
Jeremiah 49:7-11;
Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Wednesday, July 19

Psalms 142; Obadiah 15-21;
Matthew 13:10-17

Thursday, July 20

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24;
Isaiah 44:1-5; Hebrews 2:1-9

Friday, July 21

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24;
Ezekiel 39:21-29;
Hebrews 6:13-20

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Carolina at Chapel Hill who has researched how gratitude aids relationships.

Ignatius Loyola, who founded the Jesuit order in the sixteenth century, developed the spiritual practice called the Examen. A key element of the Examen is to review the day with gratitude, finding at least one encounter or observation that you are thankful for. Then, look toward the next day in the light of that gratitude. Christians all over the world still practice the Examen.

Over the centuries, the church has endured wars, plagues, revolutionary upheaval, earthquakes, floods, industrialization, schism, reformation, and persecution, always finding reason for thanksgiving in the midst of it all.

Since Christ Lutheran Church in Aurora was founded in 1899, this little congregation and her members have endured some difficult times in history too. In addition to the list mentioned earlier, we can add two World Wars, the Spanish Flu epidemic in 1919, the Great Depression, the Cold War and accompanying nuclear arms race, a presidential assassination, the Civil Rights movement, the Viet Nam War, Watergate, the falling of the Berlin Wall, and Operation Desert Storm.

One of the first portions of scripture I chose to commit to memory was I Thessalonians 5:16-18. "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (RSV)

When I first memorized this as a young teen, I thought that it meant that in a life of faith, we were supposed to put away all negative feelings and only think about the happy and good things. As time goes on, I have come to realize these admonitions of St Paul are not about denying the difficult, but a way to help us stay rooted in God's grace and steadfast love, even when everything around us is shaking. It helps us to hang on.

As we emerge from the pandemic and look forward to our congregation's 125th year of ministry, we have a lot to be grateful for. We are surprisingly stable, bucking a national trend for mainline congregations with growing worship attendance and relatively healthy finances. We have added more members than we have lost. This may not continue forever, but it is a hopeful sign and worthy of our gratitude.

We cannot deny the challenges of the years ahead. Climate change, the rise of A.I., and the likelihood of a Cascadian Subduction Zone earthquake in our region in the next 50 years should give us pause and realize we have work to do to get ready. But through it all, the creation and the church will persevere, because God loves it all. And us. And our neighbors.

Hold on tight. Remember that God is with us.
Take time for gratitude. God still has work for us to do.

Peace!
Pastor Craig

Daily Readings July

Saturday, July 22

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24;
Exodus 14:9-25; Matthew
7:15-20

Sunday, July 23

Isaiah 44:6-8,
Psalm 86:11-17,
Romans 8:12-25,
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Monday, July 24

Psalm 139:13-18;
Genesis 32:3-21;
Revelation 14:12-20

Tuesday, July 25

Psalm 139:13-18;
Genesis 33:1-17;
Galatians 4:21-5:1

Wednesday, July 26

Psalm 139:13-18;
Genesis 35:16-29;
Matthew 12:15-21

Thursday, July 27

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b;
Genesis 29:1-8;
1 Corinthians 4:14-20

Friday, July 28

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b;
Genesis 29:9-14;
Acts 7:44-53

Saturday, July 29

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b;
Genesis 29:31-30:24;
Matthew 12:38-42

Sunday, July 30

1 Kings 3:5-12,
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Monday, July 31

Psalm 65:8-13;
Genesis 30:25-36;
James 3:13-18

Emergency Food Packs

Kay Walter and the Creative Gathering Group have helped prepare emergency food packs for the church to have available to visitors in times of need. They include snacks, water, and hygiene items.

If you are at church and you come across a person in need, please feel free to hand out one or two of these food packs as needed. They are stored on a bookshelf, behind a purple curtain, in the stairwell just off the stairs from the former library to the kitchen. Supplies were purchased through a grant from Thrivent.

Free Summer Meals June 22-August 17

All children 18 and under.
No registration required

Meals provided by North Marion School District

Hot lunches served Monday's and Thursday's at the locations listed below:

Additionally, Grab and Go meals will be available to pickup Monday for Tuesday, Wednesday; and Thursday for Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

- Aurora City Park,
Aurora 11:15am-11:35am
- Century Meadows,
Aurora 11:45am-12:05pm
- Rivenes Park,
Hubbard 12:30pm-1:00pm

Wildfire Preparation Kits for Farmworkers

We will host an event for folks to assemble kits on Wednesday, August 16 from 5-6:30 pm.

The Oregon Synod Disaster Response Team has partnered with farmworker union leaders to help some of the most vulnerable in our community put together emergency kits. Christ Lutheran have been invited to help support this project. With our increasing focus on disaster preparedness and community connection, this project seemed right up our alley.

LIST OF SUPPLIES

The goal is to collect 500 of each of the items listed below. Items should be similar to *(but don't have to be the exact make/model) as those in the spreadsheet. You can help us meet our goal in the following ways:*

Purchase items from the list and drop them off at one of the sites listed below.

Purchase items online, and have them shipped directly to Christ Lutheran Church.

Make a **cash donation**, which we will use to purchase supplies on your behalf. [Donate online here](#) and make sure to note in the text field: "PCUN Solidarity", or write a check to: "Oregon Synod" and mail to: 2800 N Vancouver Ave. Suite 101, Portland, OR 97227, with "PCUN Solidarity" in the memo line.

Supply	Minimum	Links & Examples
Drawstring Backpack	4	Amazon 100 pack for \$65.99
First Aid Kit	400	Office Supply 12-piece kit J&J
KN 95 Masks	4	Amazon 120 pack for \$40.99
Flashlight	14	Amazon 30 pack for \$38.99
	17	Amazon 24 pack for \$9.99
Whistles	4	Amazon 100 pack for \$34.99
Emergency Radio	50	Amazon 1 for \$32.99
<i>Hydration Multiplier</i>	8	Amazon 48 pack for \$73.98
Emergency Blanket	3	Amazon 150 pack for \$85.99
AAA batteries/flashlight	6	(each flashlight needs 3)
Antiseptic Towelettes	5	(each backpack 10)



Worship Helpers

July 2

Greeter: Dick Kaegi

Ushers: Lynn Bloomfield and Arlene Marnella

Reader: Carolyn Popma

Donut Host: Carolyn Popma

July 9

Ushers: Mary and Kenton Wolfe

Reader: Kenton Wolfe

Coffee Host: Sonya Johnson

July 16

Ushers: Burt and Judi Aus

Reader: Burt Aus

Coffee Host: Mary Wolfe

July 23

Ushers: Susan and Dale Williamson

Reader: Doris Grider

Coffee Host: Barb Bannister and Helen David



Sophie Will	8
Lynn Bloomfield	9
Colin Brown	16
Marlene Gooding	22
Katie Bayless	24
Marie Gunther	26
Randy Beyers	30
Joyce Colvin	30
Larry Marnella	30



Chris & Meghann Fisher	4
Bob & Barb Bannister	7
George & Kiera Will	7
Don & Debbie Greenfield	8
Greg & Amy Elliott	9
Fred & Teresa Netter	9
Charles & Brenda Eggert	10
Lance & Mary Lyon	15
Troy & Gina Bayless	29
Norman & Joyce Colvin	31

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
Bonnie Riggs, Family of	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
Dorothy Chesley, family of	Marie Gunther
Elaine Bloomquist, family of	Helen D
Eric Wechter	PC
Evie Berg	PC
Glen Nelson	PC
Greg and Sheryl	Michelle R
Heidi Daniel and family	PC
Helen D	PC
Howard & Kathy Brandt	Mary W.
JoAnn Caufield	Cindy C
John Ries	Pastor Craig
Joyce Colvin	Susan W
Kate	PC
Kyla	Jordain
Kylie McMinimee	Barb B.
Larry Marnella	Ilene Marnella
Lawson Roberts	PC
Linda Bradley	Barb
Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan Harms
Margaret Schultz	Marie Gunther
Matt H	PC
Mike McCue	Heather Wechter
Norman Colvin	Nancy
Piper	Heather W
Robert & Kyla Jordain	Lorrie
Roy Steven	Joyce
Sandi & Robbie Helman	Terri Weatherly
Shirley Ann Andreason	Ilene Marnella
Stetson McMinimee	Barb B.
Steve Grider	Doris Grider
Sylvia Peter	PC
Teresa Condon	Michelle R
Tom & Joy Nelson	Mary W.
Traci	Barb B.
Vi Anderson	Judi

- 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.



We three received three "thank you" from Joyful Servant Grant recipients

- Zoar Lutheran Church for donation to furniture ministry
- Pregnancy Care Center for funds to help mothers and children in need.
- The Community Transitional School to support unhoused kids to complete their education.

Christ in Our Home devotions for July, August, and September are available in the Narthex.

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	3	4 Independence Day 6 pm AA	5	6	7	8
9 Undie Sunday 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	10	11 6 pm AA	12	13	14	15
Pastor Craig on Vacation						
16 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	17	18 6 pm AA	19	20	21	22
23 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	24	25 6 pm AA	26	27	28	29

Undie Sunday "Undie Sunday"

North Marion Schools asked if we could help supply new underwear and socks for kids in need. There is a special need for Girls underwear and sports bras (s, m, l), Boys underwear (s, m, l), Boys t-shirts (large), and boys and girls socks. It's time to resurrect "Undie Sunday". (Get the play on words. "Resurrect". Un-die?) We would like to invite CLC members and friends to bring some of the above-mentioned items on the 2nd Sunday of each month to help as we can.

A container is in the narthex to receive donations and delivered monthly to the school.

We will mark the second Sunday of each month "Undie Sunday" on the calendar as a reminder. North Marion Fellowship has agreed to sponsor a similar program at their church.



Christ Lutheran Church
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Aurora, OR 97002
clcaurora.org
(503) 678-5135

COURIER



July 2023

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

