

Our Body of Work

I don't know about you, but I really enjoyed our worship in the park and dessert auction last Sunday with our friends from Aurora Presbyterian Church. So many talented leaders sharing their gifts of music, service, cooking, baking, and preaching. An event like that takes a lot of people working for a common purpose and I was once again so proud of both of our congregations.

Pastor Cynthia and I take turns each year preaching at the event. Working as a solo pastor, I miss getting to listen to preaching that isn't my own. I will check out other preachers online from time to time, but apart from conferences and special occasions, I don't get to be on the receiving end of a message in person nearly as often as I would like.

A good sermon sticks with you during the week. Pastor Cynthia's message from Romans 12 has done that for me. The idea of our spiritual "DNA", given to us as a gift from God, has been bouncing around in my head and heart. The idea that individuals have unique traits and so do communities. Even churches do.

But the phrase that really grabbed me was when she referred to the "body of work" members of the Body of Christ create and leave behind. Just like the "filmography" of an actor or the "portfolio" of an artist, we all (individuals and communities with our own unique DNA) create and leave behind our own "body of work."

On the same Sunday morning of our service in the park, I had just read an essay in the Washington Post with the title, "I am dying of cancer at age 49: Here is why I have no regrets." <https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2023/08/27/cancer-diagnosis-life-dying-ettinger/> Penned by author Amy Ettinger,

Continued on next page>>

Daily Readings

September 1
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;
Exodus 3:16-22;
2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

September 2
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;
Exodus 4:1-9;
Matthew 8:14-17

September 3
Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

September 4
Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18;
Exodus 4:10-31;
Revelation 3:1-6

September 5
Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18;
Exodus 5:1-6:13;
Revelation 3:7-13

September 6
Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18;
Exodus 7:14-25;
Matthew 12:22-32

September 7
Psalm 149;
Exodus 9:1-7;
2 Corinthians 12:11-21

September 8
Psalm 149;
Exodus 10:21-29;
Romans 10:15b-21

September 9
Psalm 149;
Exodus 11:1-10;
Matthew 23:29-36

September 10
Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 11
Psalm 121;
Exodus 12:14-28;
1 Peter 2:11-17

Our Body of Work

wife and mother of a teenage daughter, she writes a little about her philosophy of life. A terminal diagnosis often leads the recipient to life review. Her personal philosophy was, and always had been, "Life is all about a series of moments." and "I plan to spend as much remaining time as I can savoring each one."

Her "body of work" includes a book on the history of ice cream in America, a family that she adores, and numerous spontaneous trips, including one to Oregon to view the 2017 eclipse. "I have never had a bucket list; instead I said yes to life." And looking at the comments section in the article, her essay in the Post has touched so many. Her reflection on her life will become a part of her "body of work" as well.

What will your "body of work" be? As our congregation approaches our 125 th anniversary, what is Christ Lutheran Church in Aurora, Oregon's body of work?

I hope looking back, we can think about the word's of Mother Teresa, who summed up her

body of work this way...

"If you can't do great things, do little things with great love. If you can't do them with great love, do them with a little love. If you can't do them with a little love, do them anyway."

In the book of Acts (9:36-42), when a follower of Jesus named Dorcas, who was devoted to good works and acts of charity passes away unexpectedly, Peter is summoned to see what he could do. When he arrives, the mourners stand beside Peter, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing Dorcas had made while alive. What most people remember is that Peter raised her from the dead. This is pretty remarkable. But the part of the story that sticks with me is, "What a gift that Dorcas left tangible signs of God's love with her community in the form of tunics and clothing for those in need.

In the 1930's during the Great Depression, the New Deal created massive infrastructure projects that stand today as

September 12
Psalm 121;
Exodus 12:29-42;
Romans 13:1-7

September 13
Psalm 121;
Exodus 13:1-10;
Matthew 21:18-22

September 14
Psalm 114;
Exodus 13:17-22;
1 John 3:11-16

September 15
Psalm 114;
Exodus 14:1-18;
Acts 7:9-16

September 16
Psalm 114;
Exodus 15:19-21;
Matthew 6:7-15

September 17
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 18
Psalm 77;
Joshua 3:1-17;
Hebrews 11:23-29

September 19
Psalm 77;
Nehemiah 9:9-15;
Romans 14:13-15:2

September 20
Psalm 77;
2 Kings 2:1-18;
Mark 11:20-25

September 21
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45;
Exodus 15:22-27;
2 Corinthians 13:1-4

Continued on next page>>

Our Body of Work

modern marvels of engineering and artistry. Huge hydro-electric dams like Hoover and Grand Coulee; expansive bridges like the Golden Gate and Oakland Bay; and transformative rural electrification projects in places like eastern Washington and the Tennessee Valley that changed the country.

In addition to the projects themselves, the jobs they created restored dignity and purpose to a nation that was reeling. Years later, workers who had been a part of these grand ventures spoke with pride as they showed friends and family that they had been a part of something great.

Maybe they riveted steel girders together, or hauled wheelbarrows full of concrete, or hung wire on electrical towers. They were a small part of something great. And so are we.

As the Body of Christ, the little things we do with great love are also a part of something great.

Some will be remembered. Others will be known only to God. No regrets. I'm sure there are pictures of them on refrigerators all over heaven.

Peace!

Pastor Craig.

September 22
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45;
Exodus 16:1-21;
2 Corinthians 13:5-10

September 23
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45;
Exodus 16:22-30;
Matthew 19:23-30

September 24
Jonah 3:10--4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 25
Psalm 119:97-104;
Exodus 16:31-35;
Romans 16:1-16

September 26
Psalm 119:97-104;
Numbers 11:1-9;
Romans 16:17-20

September 27
Psalm 119:97-104;
Numbers 11:18-23, 31-32;
Matthew 18:1-5

September 28
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;
Isaiah 48:17-21;
James 4:11-16

September 29
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;
Numbers 20:1-13;
Acts 13:32-41

September 30
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;
Numbers 27:12-14;
Mark 11:27-33



Worship in the Park and Dessert Auction Recap

We were blessed with a great day at Aurora Park for our annual gathering with our friends from Aurora Presbyterian Church. Special thanks to

the musicians, cooks, logistics managers, bakers, ushers, and worship leaders who helped make the event such a success! Preliminary numbers from the Dessert Auction show that we raised \$2,370. There might be a couple of outstanding donations, but we did very well. Thank you for your support of our Backpack Buddies Ministry.

Council Highlights

Election of Officers

- Conrad Pearson, president
- Lynn Ries, secretary
- Kimberly Macklin, treasurer

The new financial year has started with faithful summer giving. On the building maintenance and improvement front, we are taking bids for new sidewalks and basic hard services (the work will likely not happen for several months) and need to replace the main sewer pump at the parsonage.

The Synod is reviewing our proposed constitutional updates. We're the 7th congregation in line for this, so it will likely be a while before we hear back.

Planning for improved hospitality space in the narthex is going forward, including an offer from the Wood Village woodworkers to build us a movable service station with storage.

Marion Polk Mobile Food Pantry

While we can continue collecting whatever food people bring, they propose training two volunteers and focusing on one type of food so they can designate our donations for Aurora/Hubbard needs.

Council Thank You Goes To ...

Lisa Klyn, Dale Williamson's daughter, for bringing us a new communion caddy from New Zealand.

Worship Assistants



September 3

Greeter: Dick Kaegi

Reader: Kenton Wolfe

Ushers: Mary & Kenton Wolfe

Donuts: Carolyn Popma

September 10

Reader: Burt Aus

Ushers: Burt and Judi Aus

Coffee Host: Helen David

September 17

Reader: Lance Lyon

Usher: Lance Lyon

Coffee Host:

Barb Bannister

September 24

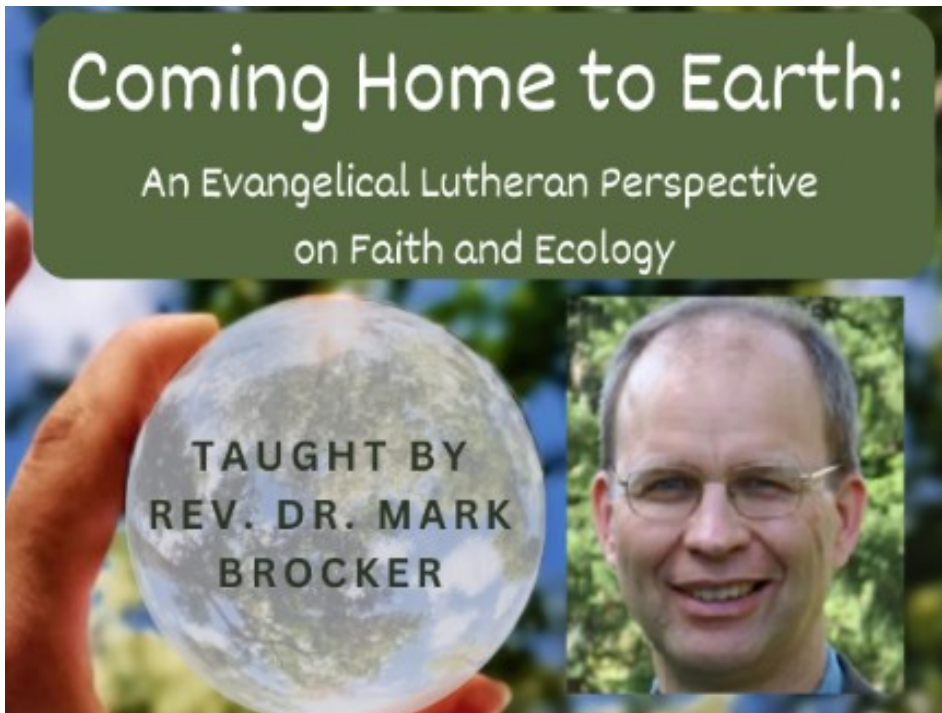
Reader: Marvis Gilnett

Ushers: Tom & Sylvia Peter

Coffee Hosts:

Lonnie Harms &

Lynn Bloomfield



Birthdays

- Charlie Eggert 6
- Sasha Gunther 14
- Tom Kleve 16
- Amy Elliott 20
- Mike McCue 21
- Mary Wolfe 21
- Teresa Netter 22
- Sylvia Peter 25
- Ernie Peter 27

Anniversaries

- Bill & Jennie Luckett 1
- Randy & Nancy Beyers 21
- Jeff & Jennifer Groner 23

Oregon Synod Lay School of Theology Fall Course

"Coming Home to Earth: An Evangelical Lutheran Perspective on Faith and Ecology." Dr. Mark Brocker will lead this eight-week live online course based on his book, Coming Home to Earth. Dr. Brocker is especially concerned about what will motivate people of faith to take action. Love of God, love of neighbor, love of creation and love of self are classic core values in our faith tradition that can motivate us to act to address pressing ecological issues.

Eight Thursday Nights

September 21 through November 9.
6:30-8:00 pm

Live on Zoom

Register Here. <https://tinyurl.com/5t5d84tk>

In Our Hearts & Prayers



Prayers for	Requested by
Anna (Grider) Westcott	Jim & Doris Grider
Ashley Becker & Lylah Jayne	Jim & Doris Grider
Beth Brandt	Mary W.
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and Mary Wolfe
Bob and Sally Boonstra	Doris Grider
Brian Wolfe	Kenton & Mary
Brooke	Heather W
Burt Aus	PC
Carol Smith	Helen D
Celinda, family of	Helen D
Colin Brown	Heather W
Dave Stegmeier	Dan and Lonnie Harms
Dexter Walter Family	Kay
Dorothy Chesley, family of	Marie Gunther
Eric Wechter	PC
Evie Berg	PC
Fred Buelow, family of	Lynn R
Glen Nelson	PC
Heidi Daniel and family	PC
Howard & Kathy Brandt	Mary W.
Jan G	PC
Jill & Ray Goodness	Mary W.
Jill Wygant	Dan H
JoAnn Caufield	Cindy C
Joanna Painter	Dixie
Joyce Colvin	Susan W
Judi Aus	PC
Julie's Family	PC
Kate	PC
Kimberly Kyser	Cindy C
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 Harms	Dan and Lonnie Harms
Mike McCue	Heather Wechter
Neal McLain	PC
Nicole Callahan	Sharon G.
Norman Colvin	Nancy
Piper	Heather W
Robert	Jordain
Roy Steven	Joyce
Sandi & Robbie Helman	Terri Weatherly
Shirley Ann Andreason	Ilene Marnella
Stetson McMinimee	Barb B.
Steve Grider	Doris Grider
Summer Railey, Family of	PC
Sylvia Peter	PC
Teresa Condon	Michelle R
Traci	Barb B.
Vi Anderson	Judi

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	4 6 pm AA	5 6 pm AA	6	7	8	9
10 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	11 6 pm AA	12 6 pm AA	13	14 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	15 10 am Creative Gathering	16
17 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	18 6 pm AA	19 6 pm AA	20 3 pm Food Share	21	22	23
24 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	25 6 pm AA	26 6 pm AA	27	28	29	30

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

COURIER



September 2023

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA



HELLO 
September