

The Gentle Art of Lenten Heart Cleaning

Dear Friends in Christ,

If you have run into me in the last month or so and asked me how I am doing, I'm pretty sure I have taken the opportunity to complain a little about the inconvenience of our whole house refresh that we are undergoing.

Karen and I moved into our current Canby home in 2004. For the first 19 years of our married life, we moved ten times; on average, once every 2 years. Every time we would move, it would be an opportunity to get rid of things that we no longer needed, nor wished to move. Yes, sometimes there were boxes that were moved that remained unopened from the last move, but on average, the process was useful.

Now, with Karen and I having lived in our current home two decades, we decided it was time for a refresh. Most of the interior of the house had not been painted since it was built in 2002 and the original carpet was really worn and the tile floors really dated. We decided that we were going to do a whole house "no demo reno", with new paint, flooring, and light fixtures in every room.

With a whole house renovation, it feels a lot like moving. Every room needs to be cleared out so contractors can do their thing. Which means that everything, both junk and precious, needs to be addressed. Do I keep it? Do I toss it? Do I put it in the storage pod and think about it later? Let's just say our storage pod is filled with the latter. Some of the furnishings and items, many of them in the pod, belonged to my parents. They were avid antique collectors, and even though my brothers and I either sold or gave away a lot of their collections when they passed, I was surprised by the number of things that I own that once belonged to them.

February 1

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c;
Proverbs 12:10-21;
Galatians 5:2-15

February 2

Presentation of the Lord
Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 84
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

February 2

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c;
Job 36:1-23;
1 Corinthians 9:1-16

February 3

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c;
Isaiah 46:1-13;
Matthew 12:9-14

February 4

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalms 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 5

Psalms 102:12-28;
2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37;
Acts 14:1-7

February 6

Psalms 102:12-28;
2 Kings 8:1-6;
Acts 15:36-41

February 7

Psalms 102:12-28;
Job 6:1-13;
Mark 3:7-12

From Pastor Craig

One item we had to move out for the contractors was a glass display case that had belonged to my mom. It is illuminated from within and even the shelves are made of glass. When we moved into our home 20 years ago, my brother Ian helped place the cabinet and arrange glass and ceramics items of my mom's for display. Except for occasional dusting and glass cleaning, that cabinet has sat in the same spot for 20 years.

Because the items in the cabinet were so fragile, the living and dining area where it stood were mostly a "kid and pet free zone". We didn't want anyone accidentally bumping into the cabinet and breaking some of the fragile contents.

A couple of weeks ago, Karen and I took a photo of the cabinet and the items displayed within it, so we could remember where they went when we put the cabinet back after construction. The items were wrapped and put in a box and the cabinet now sits in the garage.

When the living and dining area were finished this week, I came to a conclusion; I no longer wanted that part of the house to be "off limits" to either child or dog. The room felt more spacious without it and no longer would I need to "police" who went in there. The decision was freeing. I've offered the cabinet to my brother's families. If no one takes me up on it, I bet there are some antique stores in Aurora who could provide it a good home.

As we have been forced to address our possessions and the potential burden our children will face with our estate, I picked up the book by Margaretta Magnusson, *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning*. The author describes a process, traditional in Sweden, for helping families discuss possessions and to help people prepare for the time when their "stuff" becomes someone else's responsibility. I think this is a good time for our family to begin this process. On Ash Wednesday, we begin the service with Psalm 51... Create in me a clean heart, O God. When I first heard this psalm as part of the liturgy when I was young, I thought of

February 8

Psalm 50:1-6;
1 Kings 11:26-40;
2 Corinthians 2:12-17

February 9

Psalm 50:1-6;
1 Kings 14:1-18;
1 Timothy 1:12-20

February 10

Psalm 50:1-6;
1 Kings 16:1-7;
Luke 19:41-44

February 11

Transfiguration Sunday
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 12

Psalm 110:1-4;
Exodus 19:7-25;
Hebrews 2:1-4

February 13

Psalm 110:1-4;
Job 19:23-27;
1 Timothy 3:14-16

February 14

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 15

Psalm 25:1-10;
Daniel 9:1-14;
1 John 1:3-10

February 16

Psalm 25:1-10;
Daniel 9:15-25a;
2 Timothy 4:1-5

From Pastor Craig

my heart as being in need of cleansing. This is true. But sometimes, our hearts are more cluttered than dirty. Filled with things, some not necessarily good or bad, but still obstacles to following Christ.

This year, I am going to approach the forty days of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday February 14, as an opportunity to declutter my heart. To try and prioritize “my self, my time, and my possessions” in a way that frees me to be a better servant of the God who loves me.

In the Ash Wednesday Service, there is a portion of the service called “The Invitation to Lent”. In it, the minister exhorts the congregation with the following call...

As Disciple of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent... self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love-strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection. (ELW, Ministers Desk Edition.)

I invite us all to approach the 40 days of Lent as an opportunity, through the disciplines of Lent described above, to “de-clutter” our hearts. What are you holding onto that is getting in the way of loving God and neighbor? What can you give away that you no longer need?

I also invite you to use the season of Lent to focus on your calling as a child of God. Worship regularly. Use your daily devotions. And consider passing on something that once gave you joy, but that you no longer need.

Let the “heart cleaning” begin!

Peace! Pastor Craig.

February 17

Psalm 25:1-10;
Psalm 32;
Matthew 9:2-13

February 18

First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February 19

Psalm 77; Job 4:1-21;
Ephesians 2:1-10

February 20

Psalm 77;
Job 5:8-27;
1 Peter 3:8-18a

February 21

Psalm 77;
Proverbs 30:1-9;
Matthew 4:1-11

February 22

Psalm 22:23-31;
Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18;
Romans 3:21-31

February 23

Psalm 22:23-31;
Genesis 16:1-6;
Romans 4:1-12

February 24

Psalm 22:23-31;
Genesis 16:7-15;
Mark 8:27-30

February 25

Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9



February

4th

Reader: Lynn Ries
Ushers: Lynn and John Ries
Donuts: Helen David

18th

Reader: Lance Lyon
Usher: Lance Lyon
Coffee Host: Marvis Gilnett

11th

Reader: Dale Williamson
Ushers: Dale & Susan
Williamson
Coffee Host: Marie Gunther

25th

Reader: Kenton Wolfe
Usher: Kenton Wolfe
Coffee Hosts:
Lynn Bloomfield
& Lonnie Harms

The Council "Thank You of the Month" goes to Julie Pirelli-Minetti.

Julie went through our entire Church Kitchen, cleaning and organizing what we have, and throwing out dated food stuffs. Also, on a table in the downstairs fellowship hall are items that are either duplicates or things we no longer need. Please help yourself to anything there. What isn't picked up will be donated to Canby Kiwanis Thrift Store.



Souper Bowl Sunday February 12th!

We now know that it will be the 49'ers and the Chiefs contesting for this year's Super Bowl. Super Bowl Sunday is also the day that we collect non-perishable food items and cash donations for our local food bank. This year, the recipient will be Marion/Polk Food Share's mobile food pantry in Aurora.

February 26

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45;
Genesis 21:1-7;
Hebrews 1:8-12

February 27

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45;
Genesis 22:1-19;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19

February 28

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45;
Jeremiah 30:12-22;
John 12:36-43

February 29

Psalm 19;
Exodus 19:1-9a;
1 Peter 2:4-10



- Feb 9 Debbie Greenfield
- Feb 12 Krystal Snell
- Feb 16 Charlie Eggert
Rick Snell
- Feb 23 Sophia Ries
- Feb 28 Marvis Gilnett



- Feb 1 Charles & Marie
Gunther
- Feb 14 Colin & Jeanne
Brown

In Our Hearts & Prayers

Prayers for	Requested by	Prayers for	Requested by
Abraham	Barb B.	Kate	PC
Amy	Barb B.	Kim	Lisa
Anna (Grider) Westcott	Jim & Doris Grider	Kimberly Kyser	Cindy C
Beth Brandt	Mary W.	Kyla	Jordain
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and Mary Wolfe	Larry Marnella	Ilene Marnella
Bob and Sally Boonstra	Doris Grider	Larry Townsend, family	PC
Brian Wolfe	Kenton & Mary	Laurie Boyce	PC
Brooke	Heather W	Lawson Roberts Family	PC
Bruce Baker	Kevin Baker	Linda Bradley	Susan W
Carol Smith	Helen D	Lorrie D	PC
Charles G.	PC	Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan Harms
Colin Brown	Heather W	Margaret Schultz	Marie Gunther
Cyndy Caufield	Susan W	Marie G	Barb B.
Dave Stegmeier	Dan and Lonnie Harms	Martin Nygaard, Family of	Barb B.
Dexter Walter Family	Kay	Mary Wolfe	PC
Ellen Paulson	Lorrie Dyrdaahl	Matt H	PC
Eric Wechter	PC	Micah Akin	Wyatt Akin
Evie Berg	PC	Mike Harms	Dan and Lonnie Harms
Frank Cutsforth Family	PC	Mike McCue	Heather Wechter
Gene Free Family	Ilene Marnella	Neal McLain	PC
Heidi Daniel and family	PC	Nicole Callahan	Sharon G.
Howard & Kathy Brandt	Mary W.	Norman Colvin	Nancy
Jan G	PC	Oscar D	Sam D
Jenno	Heather W	Pastor Christine Core	PC
Jill & Ray Goodness	Mary W.	Piper	Heather W
Jill Weygandt	Dan H	Robert	Jordain
JoAnn Caufield	Cindy C	Roy Steven	Joyce
Joanna Painter	Dixie	Sandra Villegas	Barb
Joyce Colvin	Susan W	Shana Kelley, Family of	Sharron G
Julie (Bayless) Coffey	PC	Shirley Ann Andreason	Ilene Marnella
Kaden	PC	Summer Railey, Family	PC
		Sylvia Peter	PC
		Teresa Condon, Family	PC
		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.

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." ___ Frederick Buechner

Joyful Servant Grant Applications: 2024 \$100 to \$600 to fund community outreach projects

What is a Joyful Servant Grant?

Joyful Servant Grants are supported with Endowment Outreach Funds that are available to our congregation members for local projects that serve those who are struggling in the community. The applicant will be the person who completes the request information and oversees the project to its completion. Remembering Matthew 25:31-46 (see bottom of the page). What are we called to do? What is your passion? How do we feed, comfort, lift up or otherwise connect with those who need us any season of the year?

Where does the money to fund grants come from?

The Christ Lutheran Church Endowment Fund principal is maintained while the income generated through investments is disbursed with a majority going to local outreach. A portion of that is designated for Joyful Servant Grants.

What can the grants be spent on?

Projects may be specifically faith based, but may not be. Applicants connected to CLC and new projects will have priority over repeat projects. Grants are limited to \$500 or less. Money may be spent on materials or outside services, but not to provide ongoing salaries. Projects are not open ended. They are only supported financially for one year unless resubmitted and selected again. Cost may be estimated. Please remember to follow up with a report and copies of receipts returned to Dale Williamson in order to be eligible to submit future applications.

What is the timeline for this grant?

Applications will be available beginning February 18, 2024 and must be submitted by March 17, 2024 to Barb Bannister either by email to 1brbann@gmail.com or placing a hard copy in her mailbox. Applications will be available at the back of the church or by email from Lance Lyon at lansonl.lyon@gmail.com. For questions contact Barb Bannister, Marie Gunther, Lance Lyon, Carey Pinto, or Dale Williamson. Winning grants will be announced following the Endowment meeting on April 21, 2024

Matthew 25:34-36

*"Then the King will say to those on his right,
"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of
these brothers of mine, you did for me. I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I need clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me.
I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these
brothers of mine, you did for me."*

LOVE is Something You Do

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10 am Worship 7 pm AA Meeting	5 6 pm AA Meeting	6 6 pm AA Meeting	7 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service	8 6-8 pm Wellbriety	9 6-8 pm Wellbriety	10
11 Souper Bowl of Caring 10 am Worship	12 6 pm AA Meeting	13 6 pm AA Meeting	14 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 6-8 pm Wellbriety	16 6-8 pm Wellbriety	17
18 10 am Worship 7 pm AA Meeting Volunteer Event	19 6 pm AA Meeting	20 6 pm AA Meeting	21 10 am Backpack Buddies 3:30-5 pm Marion/Polk Mobile Food Pantry, Aurora Pythian Hall	22 6-8 pm Wellbriety	23 6-8 pm Wellbriety	24
25 10 am Worship 7 pm AA Meeting	26 3-4:30 pm North Marian Services Team 6 pm AA Meeting	27 6 pm AA Meeting	28	29		

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COURIER



February 2024

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA



XOXO

FEBRUARY

