

**February 2 Is "Candlemas": Let Your Light Shine!**

Dear friends in Christ,

This Sunday, February 2, has two different sets of readings to choose from in the lectionary. This year, both sets are compelling for me as a preacher, and I am finding it hard to choose.

The readings for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany follow closely the readings from the previous Sunday, and as a preacher, I feel that choosing those gives me a chance to preach the "rest of the story from Luke 4 and the section on 1 Corinthians that we have been covering. The other option are the readings from Luke 2, where Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the Temple 40 days after his birth for the rite of purification. There they meet Simeon, a man promised by God that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Simeon takes the baby Jesus in his arms and sings a song of praise and blessing, now known as the Nunc Dimittis. "Now let your servant depart in peace."

Like anyone who is having trouble deciding, I think I found a way to do both! This month's Courier gets a reflection on Simeon and Luke 2, while Sunday Worship gets the completion of Jesus preaching in his hometown of Nazareth. February 2 marks 40 days after Christmas. If I were to ask most people what February 2nd was famous for, most of you would say, "Groundhog Day". Believe it or not, Groundhog Day has its roots in the religious holiday of the presentation of Jesus at the Temple and Simeon's Song of Praise. Part of the song of Simeon refers to Jesus as "a light for a revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory to your people Israel." (Luke 2:32). In the church, February 2, Candlemas, was a day set aside for the blessing of candles, not just in the sanctuary but also for the home as well. Everyone would bring their candles to the church and the candles would receive a blessing as a reminder that Jesus came to bring

**Saturday, February 01**

Psalm 71:1-6;  
2 Chronicles 36:11-21;  
John 1:43-51

**Sunday, February 02**

Malachi 3:1-4  
Psalm 84  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40

**Monday, February 03**

Psalm 56;  
1 Kings 17:8-16;  
1 Corinthians 2:6-16

**Tuesday, February 04**

Psalm 56;  
2 Kings 5:1-14;  
1 Corinthians 14:13-25

**Wednesday, February 05**

Psalm 56;  
Jeremiah 1:11-19;  
Luke 19:41-44

**Thursday, February 06**

Psalm 138;  
Numbers 20:22-29;  
Acts 9:19b-25

**Friday, February 07**

Psalm 138;  
Numbers 27:12-23;  
Acts 9:26-31;

**Saturday, February 08**

Psalm 138;  
Judges 3:7-11;  
Luke 4:42-44

## **From Pastor Craig**

light to the darkness. This was especially appropriate in the middle of winter, after weeks of darkness and cold, to be reminded that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

Our Germanic ancestors from the Middle Ages added some folklore to this religious holiday. It was said that if the badger (or bear) interrupted their hibernation, came out of their den and it was sunny (saw their shadow) on Candlemas, there would be six more weeks of Winter. If not, spring would come early. German immigrants to the United States carried this legend with them, and in Pennsylvania the groundhog came to be substituted for the badger.

Here in Oregon, January 2025, we have been blessed with a record tying number of consecutive sunny days. Looking out my office window at church this week, I saw one of our neighbors set up some chairs and a table in their front yard. They pulled out their laptop and enjoyed the sunshine, working for an hour or two. It was maybe 45 degrees, but it was sunny! A true Oregonian!

During dark seasons, light is especially powerful. It gives us hope that things will not always be dreary. Even a little bit can make a difference.

As part of the baptismal rite, we read from Matthew 5 and present the baptized with a candle saying, “(L)et your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16).

In our baptism, we are called to be light bearers, carrying Christ’s light with us wherever we go. At the conclusion of Sunday worship, we practice a brief sending ritual. “Go in Peace, to love and serve the Lord!” or similar words, are spoken by the minister, with the congregational response being, “Thanks be to God!” In some traditions, Simeon’s song, the Nunc Dimittis is sung.

During times when the light seems especially absent, we are not called to simply huddle down in the darkness or complain about how bright things used to be. Like the candles of

## **Sunday, February 09**

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]  
Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

## **Monday, February**

10 Psalm 115;  
Judges 5:1-11;  
1 Corinthians 14:26-40;

## **Tuesday February**

11 Psalm 115;  
1 Samuel 9:15-10:1b;  
1 Timothy 3:1-9

## **Wednesday, February 12**

Psalm 115;  
Isaiah 8:1-15; Luke 5:27-32

## **Thursday, February 13**

Psalm 1;  
Jeremiah 13:12-19;  
Acts 13:26-34

## **Friday, February 14**

Psalm 1;  
Jeremiah 13:20-27;  
1 Peter 1:17-2:1

## **Saturday, February 15**

Psalm 1; Jeremiah 17:1-4;  
Luke 11:24-28;

## **Sunday, February 16**

Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 6:17-26

## **Monday, February 17**

Psalm 120;  
2 Kings 24:18-25:21;  
1 Corinthians 15:20-34

## **Tuesday, February 18**

Psalm 120; Ezra 1:1-11; 2  
Corinthians 1:12-19

## **From Pastor Craig**

Candlemas, we have received God's blessing and grace, and are called to carry that light home and into the world.

I can't help but think of a song many of us grew up singing in Sunday School.

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine! Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine! When things seem darkest, it's time to crank up the lumens.

In April of 2019, one of the great architectural wonders of the world, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, caught fire. Due to the heroic work of firefighters, the main structure of the building was able to be saved, but the damage was extensive. Would Notre Dame ever be the same?

Five years after the fire, a restored Notre Dame was rededicated and revealed to the world. During the restoration, workers took advantage of the down time to thoroughly clean and attend to every surface of the ancient cathedral, adding modern lighting as well. Almost to a person, everyone who saw the restoration couldn't get over how gleaming everything was. Notre Dame had never looked better.

A vital part of the project were workers from Cologne, Germany who specialized in stained glass repair. They restored four of Notre Dame's most magnificent windows. It was not lost on many that those artisans were from a former adversary nation who, during the war, had experienced extensive damage to their own churches and cathedrals. Over the decades, their own work in restoration had helped prepare them for this undertaking.

As I write this on January 31, the rains have returned. Goodness knows we can use the water. But it is a little darker this morning. Time to crank up the lumens! May the light of Christ shine on you and through you so that you can be a blessing!

Peace!  
Pastor Craig

## **Wednesday, February 19**

Psalm 120;  
Jeremiah 22:11-17;  
Luke 11:37-52

## **Thursday, February 20**

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;  
Genesis 43:16-34;  
Romans 8:1-11

## **Friday, February 21**

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;  
Genesis 44:1-17;  
1 John 2:12-17

## **Saturday, February 22**

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;  
Genesis 44:18-34;  
Luke 12:57-59

## **Sunday, February 23**

Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38,  
42-50, Luke 6:27-38

## **Monday, February 24**

Psalm 38; Genesis 33:1-17;  
1 Corinthians 11:2-16

## **Tuesday, February 25**

Psalm 38;  
1 Samuel 24:1-22;  
1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33;

## **Wednesday, February 26**

Psalm 38; Leviticus 5:1-13;  
Luke 17:1-4

## **Thursday, February 27**

Psalm 99;  
Deuteronomy 9:1-5;  
Acts 3:11-16

## **Friday, February 28**

Psalm 99;  
Deuteronomy 9:6-14;  
Acts 10:1-8



**February 2**

Reader: Dan Harms  
Ushers: Dan & Lonnie Harms  
Coffee Host: Denise McPherson

**February 9**

Reader: Lynn Ries  
Ushers: John and Lynn Ries  
Donut Host: Mary Wolfe

**February 16**

Reader: Carolyn Popma  
Usher: George Will  
Coffee Host: Kimberly Pearson

**February 23**

Reader: Kenton Wolfe  
Ushers: Kenton and Mary Wolfe  
Coffee Host: Helen David



- Feb 1 Jack Guthrie
- Feb 13 Susan Williamson
- Feb 16 Matt Boonstra
- Feb 19 George Will
- Feb 20 Naomi Will
- Feb 23 Sophia Ries
- Feb 24 Bonnie Johnson
- Feb 28 Marvis Gilnett



- Feb 1 Charles & Marie Gunther
- Feb 3 Michelle & Tom Ripple
- Feb 14 Colin & Jeanne Brown



**Souper Bowl of Caring**  
**Sunday, February 9th**

It has been our custom to collect non-perishable food and funds for a local food bank on Super Bowl Sunday.

As we do this, we give donors the opportunity to support whoever they want to win the big game in a friendly competition by putting their donations in the soup pot with their favorite team’s logo. The idea for this event first came from a youth group in South Carolina over thirty years ago. This year, no matter who wins, we will be supporting the Marion-Polk Food Share Mobile Food Pantry that meets at the Aurora Pythian Hall on the third Wednesday of each month.

## In Our Hearts & Prayers

Prayers for	Requested by
Abraham	Barb B.
Anna (Grider) Westcott	Jim & Doris Grider
Bankhead Family	Wyatt Akin
Beth Brandt	Mary W.
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and Mary Wolfe
Bob and Sally Boonstra	Doris Grider
Bonnie and Bruce John-	PC
Brooke	Heather W
Bruce Baker	Kevin Baker
Bud Richard and Family	Kimberly Macklin
Burt Aus	Judi Aus
Carol Smith	Helen D
Charles G.	PC
Colin Brown	Heather W
Cindy Caufield	Susan W
Dana St. Clair	Diane Schaber
Dennis Ormseth	Mary W.
Dyrdahl Family	PC
Ellen Paulson	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Eric Wechter	PC
Evie Berg	PC
Gayle Abernathy Family	PC
Heather Wechter	PC
Heide Hendrick	PC
Heidi Daniel Family	PC
Hollinger Family, Ellie	Kimberly Macklin
Howard & Kathy Brandt	Mary W.

Jan G	PC
Jean Ruter	Mary W.
Jerry McKenzie	Sharon G.
Jo Miller	Kimberly Macklin
JoAnn Caufield Family	Cindy C
Joanna Painter	Dixie
John Ries and Family	PC
Kate	PC
Kim	Lisa
Kimberly Kyser	Cindy C
Larry Marnella	Ilene Marnella
Laurie Boyce	PC
Linda Fender	Dan and Lonnie Harms
Lorrie D	PC
Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan Harms
Mark Kynsi	Wyatt Akin
Marlene McDonald	Amy Elliott
Mary Wolfe	PC
Matthew Brown	Heather W
Matt H	PC
Micah Akin	Wyatt Akin
Mike and Dixie Harms	Dan and Lonnie Harms
Mike McCue	Heather Wechter
Misty Mann	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Molly Fowler	Barb B.
Oscar D	Sam D
Phyllis Murray, family of	Marie G.
Piper	Heather W
Richard Dyrdahl	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Robert	Jordain
Roy Steven	Joyce
Shirley Ann Andreason	Ilene Marnella
Sylvia Peter	PC
Tammara Davidson	PC
Tom Haskins	Kim M.
Traci	Barb B.
Vi Anderson	Judi
Willo Dene Wilson Family	Lance Lyon

- 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.

# Joyful Servant Grant 2025

## JSG Application 2025 for up to \$600 to fund community outreach projects

### **What is a Joyful Servant Grant?**

A grant to support local service projects that serve community members or projects using Endowment Outreach Funds. The applicant completes the request and oversees the project to its completion. What programs or projects are you passionate about? They are possible options for Joyful Servant Grants.

### **How can the grants be used?**

For faith based projects or not or to help individuals, i.e. to pay water bill, buy food, etc.). New ideas will take priority over repeat requests. Money may be spent on materials (diapers, formula, phone cards, cell phones, gas cards, etc.), but not on salaries. The amount requested must be spent in the current 12 months. Cost may be estimated. A follow up report with copies to receipts (if possible) should be submitted to Carey Pinto in order to be eligible to submit future applications.

### **What is the timeline for grant applications and selection announcements?**

Applications will be available beginning March 2 online or hard copies at the back of the church. Online from Lance Lyon [lanson.lyon@gmail.com](mailto:lanson.lyon@gmail.com). For questions contact: Marie Gunther, Lance Lyon, Carey Pinto, Mike Boonstra, John Ries or Barb Bannister. Deadline for returns is March 30. Decisions will be made at the Endowment meeting on April 6 and announced the following Sunday, April 13. Return applications to Marie Gunther at [blkbry@msn.com](mailto:blkbry@msn.com) or put hard copies in her mailbox at church.

LOVE is Something You Do

# February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
10 am Worship 7 pm AA	6:30 pm Aurora Emergency Preparedness Team	6 pm AA		6:30-8 pm "Welbriety" Recovery Support Group		5:15 pm AA Speaker Night
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
10 am Worship 11:15 am Council Meeting 7 pm AA		6 pm AA	3 - 5:30 pm Food Share	6:30-8 pm "Welbriety" Recovery Support Group		
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
10 am Worship 11:15 am Endowment Team 7 pm AA		6 pm AA		10 am Backpack Buddies 6:30-8 pm "Welbriety" Recovery Support Group		
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	
10 am Worship 7 pm AA		3-4:30 pm North Marion Services Team 6 pm AA		6:30-8 pm "Welbriety" Recovery Support Group		

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# COURIER



*February 2025*

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA



XOXO  
**FEBRUARY**

