

**Christological Cartography:
Navigating In a Complex World**

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I mentioned in a recent Courier letter, I was gifted at Christmas with an online journal subscription called Storyworth. In weekly installments, Storyworth invites the recipient to write short essays about your life based on questions that are intended to help you explore parts of your journey, especially your early years. The end-result is a printed book or journal that can be shared with family. Your story.

The essay question I received last week was based on the prompt, "Tell about some memorable vacations you had as a child." As I pondered the question, I was soon transported to the backseat of our 1965 Ford Fairlane Station Wagon, (White with Blue Vinyl Upholstery) and the many car trips we took to visit friends and family.

Most of the routes were familiar. We usually knew where we were going. But on occasion, we found ourselves in unfamiliar territory. That meant, going to the glovebox on the passenger side and pulling out the map. Now, the condition of the road map was kind of a crap shoot. Had the previous navigator taken the time to fold it properly when done with it? Was it torn or was there a coffee stain on a pertinent part? Had it just been crumpled up and shoved back in the glovebox in frustration? All of these were possibilities.

In the 1960's, local replacement maps were readily available at your local service station. With a fill up, you could get gas, have your tires and radiator hoses checked, get a couple of "STP" oil treatment stickers to put on your bike, and pick up a free (or cheap) road map.

In high school, I graduated from simple paper maps to a Thomas Guide. One of my high school jobs was as a delivery person for a florist. The shop would make the arrangement, put the address on the card, and I was expected to get the

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March 1

Deuteronomy 9:15-24
Luke 10:21-24
Psalm 99

March 2

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12 — 4:2
Luke 9:28-36[37-43a]

March 3

Exodus 35:1-29
Acts 10:9-23a
Psalm 35:11-28

March 4

Ezekiel 1:1—2:1
Acts 10:23b-33
Psalm 35:11-28

March 5

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

March 6

Exodus 5:10-23
Acts 7:30-34
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

March 7

Exodus 6:1-13
Acts 7:35-42
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

March 8

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
John 12:27-36
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

March 9

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (11)
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 10

1 Chronicles 21:1-17 1
John 2:1-6
Psalm 17

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flowers to their recipient. I usually had multiple deliveries each time I left the shop and that required me to not only know the destination, but to plan out a route that would be the most efficient use of time and gas.

The Thomas Guide that I used was for all of King County Washington: Seattle and Suburbs. Instead of a large single map, a Thomas Guide was a bound booklet of numbered maps. On each of the four sides of each numbered map were other numbers. If you were to remove the binding and place the maps in order, you could create one huge map. This was not recommended! To determine your map and target location, you began in an index in the back, which helped you visualize your goal. The guide was updated each year and they weren't cheap.

As a wedding gift in 1985, Karen and I received a membership to AAA. As a member, one of the perks was something called a "Trip Tik". It was a bound map (kind of like a small Thomas Guide) meant for specific road trips with up to 25 stops. They were hand assembled and made just for you. We used our first Trip Tik to get from Tacoma, Washington to Dubuque, Iowa for Seminary. (We still got lost a couple of times!)

By the early 2000's we had Map Quest, a computer program that could determine the best route between two points. Once downloaded, you would simply print out the map for your trip. There were some bugs early on. I remember preparing to travel from Lebanon, Oregon to a conference at St Luke Lutheran in S.W. Portland. The recommended route was 300 miles long and took me there via the Oregon Coast! Even I knew that was not the best way to go.

Since then, we have graduated to Garmin Navigators (recalculating) and finally Google or Apple Maps. They are on our computers, phones, and even in our cars. With the help of satellites, we can look at practically any point on the earth.

Above my desk in my home office, I have a framed replica map, circa 1900, of the world with steamship routes and trans ocean cables marked. I like the old-timey look and it is a reminder to me that human beings, even back to those who navigated only by the sun and the stars, were always trying to find their bearings and their way forward.

March 11

Zechariah 3:1-10
2 Peter 2:4-21
Psalm 17

March 12

Job 1:1-22
Luke 21:34—22:6
Psalm 17

March 13

Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18
Philippians 3:2-12
Psalm 27

March 14

Genesis 14:17-24
Philippians 3:17-20
Psalm 27

March 15

Psalm 118:26-29
Matthew 23:37-39
Psalm 27

March 16

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17—4:1
Luke 13:31-35

March 17

Exodus 33:1-6
Romans 4:1-12
Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41]

March 18

Numbers 14:10b-24
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41]

March 19

2 Chronicles 20:1-22
Luke 13:22-31
Psalm 105:1-15
[16-41] 42

March 20

2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16
Psalm 89:1-29 (2)
Romans 4:13-18
Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

March 21

Daniel 3:19-30
Revelation 2:8-11
Psalm 63:1-8

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When Martin Luther created and published his Small Catechism in 1529, his purpose was to provide a point of reference for the essentials of the Christian Faith for converts and children. The Lord's Prayer, The Creed, The Ten Commandments, The Sacraments. These were to be the "points of reference" for people to better understand their faith. I still find myself referring to those many lines that I begrudgingly memorized in 9th grade for clarity and illumination.

In the early church, the season of Lent (40 days before Easter) were set aside as a season of instruction for people seeking baptism at Easter. The candidates were called "Catechumens", and they used that time to gain a basic understanding of what they were committing to as well as to give them some tools to grow in their faith life after baptism.

Baptism is home base for all Christians. It's the place we return to if we have lost our way or need clarity for the path we need to take. The Sunday readings in Lent take us on a journey of following Jesus, even to the difficult places.

Even though our maps have improved, navigating our world seems harder and harder all the time. Medical care is complicated. Cars are too complex to repair or even maintain at home. Passwords for the computer are always out of date or forgotten. Even with all of the technology and conveniences, life feels harder, or at least more complex, than ever before. We wonder if the old ways of navigating the world still apply?

One of the earliest names for the followers of Jesus was "People of the Way". The Way referred to those who, by God's Grace, had committed to walking the road with Jesus. Even with all the complexities and complications of 21 st Century living, following Jesus is still what our life of faith is all about. And when we wander off the path, which we will inevitably do, we can stop and ask for directions.

Beginning with Ash Wednesday March 5, I invite you to the journey of Lent. May the ancient and ever living words of Jesus guide your path.

Peace!

Pastor Craig



Reminder

Daylight Savings Time

Did you know
that on

Sunday, March 9

@ 2:00 a.m.

that Daylight
Savings Time

Begins?

This is a reminder
to move your
clocks forward
one (1) hour.

Sunday Helpers

March 2

Reader: Carolyn Popma
 Ushers: Lynn Bloomfield & Ilene Marnella
 Donuts: Carolyn Popma

March 9

Reader: Lance Lyon
 Usher: Lance Lyon
 Coffee Host: Barb Bannister

March 16

Reader Burt Aus
 Ushers: Burt and Judi Aus
 Coffee Hosts: Lynn Bloomfield and Lonnie Harms

March 23

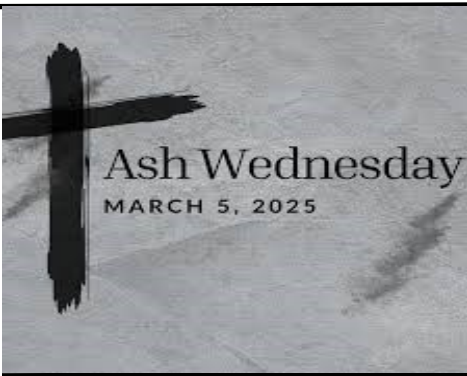
Reader: Marvis Gilnett
 Usher: Marvis Gilnett
 Coffee Hosts:
 Sue Williamson & Doris Grider

March 30

Reader: Kenton Wolfe
 Ushers: Kenton & Mary Wolfe
 Mini Potluck Host:
 Marie Gunther



Kenton Wolfe	8
Tom Ripple	13
Dixie Scheehean	13
Helen David	14
Jennifer Groner	14
Morgan Lockett	14
Mary Lyon	15
Dennis Lewis	18
Gordan Ball	18
John Ries	18
Judi Aus	20
Lance Lyon	21
Kim Beyers	26



Ash Wednesday

Service@ 7:00 pm

Come Join Us.



Denise & Barry McPherson	10
Jayne & Dennis Lewis	22
Cyndy & Scott Caufield	24



Lonnie Harms and the Transitional Shelter Team

would like to thank all of you who helped donate essential items for our family transitioning from our shelter to their own place. You are the best!

Prayers for	Requested by	Prayers for	Requested by
Abraham	Barb B.	Mary Wolfe	PC
Anna (Grider)	Jim & Doris	Matthew Brown	Heather W
Bankhead Fami-	Wyatt Akin	Matt H	PC
Beth Brandt	Mary W.	Micah Akin	Wyatt Akin
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and	Mike and Dixie	Dan and Lonnie
Bob and Sally	Doris Grider	Mike McCue	Heather Wechter
Bonnie and	PC	Misty Mann	Lorrie Dyrdaahl
Brooke	Heather W	Molly Fowler	Barb B.
Bruce Baker	Kevin Baker	Oscar D	Sam D
Bud Richard and	Kimberly Macklin	Phyllis Murray,	Marie G.
Burt Aus	Judi Aus	Piper	Heather W
Carol Smith	Helen D	Richard Dyrdaahl	Lorrie Dyrdaahl
Charles G.	PC	Robert	Jordain
Colin Brown	Heather W	Roy Steven	Joyce
Cindy Caufield	Susan W	Shirley Ann Andrea-	Ilene Marnella
Dana St. Clair	Diane Schaber	Sylvia Peter	PC
Dennis Ormseth	Mary W.	Tammara Davidson	PC
Dyrdaahl Family	PC	Tom Haskins	Kim M.
Ellen Paulson	Lorrie Dyrdaahl	Traci	Barb B.
Eric Wechter	PC	Vi Anderson	Judi
Evie Berg	PC	Willo Dene Wilson	Lance Lyon

March 22
Isaiah 5:1-7
Luke 6:43-45
Psalm 63:1-8

March 23
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8 (1)
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 24
Jeremiah 11:1-17
Romans 2:1-11
Psalm 39

March 25
Ezekiel 17:1-10
Romans 2:12-16
Psalm 39

March 26
Numbers 13:17-27
Luke 13:18-21
Psalm 39

March 27
Joshua 4:1-13 2
Corinthians 4:16—5:5
Psalm 32

March 28
Joshua 4:14-24
2 Corinthians 5:6-15
Psalm 32

March 29
Exodus 32:7-14
Luke 15:1-10
Psalm 32

March 30
Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32 (11)
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

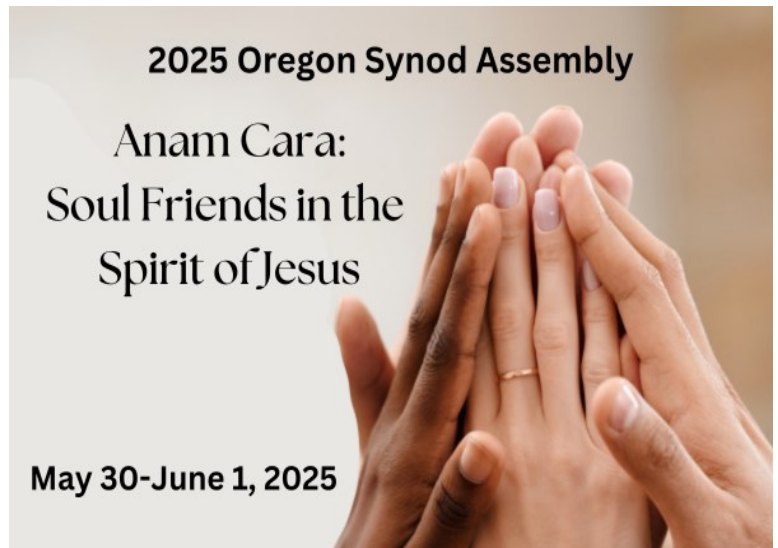
March 31
Leviticus 23:26-41
Revelation 19:1-8
Psalm 53

*Our thoughts
And prayers
Are with you.*

- 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.

**Delegates for Oregon Synod
Assembly May 30-June 1:**

The Oregon Synod Assembly will meet in Portland. Christ Lutheran Church is permitted two lay delegates to the Assembly this year, where there will also be a Bishop's Election. If you are interested in participating as a delegate or want to learn more about what being a delegate entails, please contact Pastor Craig.



Synod Assembly is an opportunity to gather together to worship, open our hearts, connect in a space of friendship, care for the business of our synod, and ground ourselves and the world in God's love.

This year our event theme is "Anam Cara: Soul Friends in the Spirit of Jesus." We will be exploring and inviting Spirit in as we explore deep friendship with the land and the water, the saints and ancestors, and our neighbors. We will be joined by ELCA Churchwide representative and Vice President Imran Siddiqui, who will be facilitating this year's bishop election.

Everyone is welcome to attend (you do not have to be an elected voting member to join us). Come to participate in workshops featuring themes to support challenges, opportunities, and conversations relevant for the life of your Church. Look forward to future emails with additional details! And come to enjoy a time of relaxation at the lovely hotel venue on the Columbia River.

This year's Assembly will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Columbia River, seven miles from downtown Portland. The hotel has been renovated since 2017 Assembly was held there (formerly Red Lion). Amenities include a: fitness center, pickleball courts, outdoor pool and hot tub and an onsite restaurant with views of the river. Room reservations can be made here. To get the discounted group rate, book by May 7 and mention Oregon Synod ELCA.

March

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	3 6:30-8:30 pm Aurora Emergency Preparedness	4 6pm AA Meeting	5 Ash Wednesday 7 pm Worship	6 6 – 8pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	7	8 5:15-6:15 pm AA Speaker Night
9 10 am Worship 11:15 am Council Meeting 7 pm AA	10	11 6pm AA Meeting	12	13 North Marion Pastors 1-2 p.m 6 – 8pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	14	15
16 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	17	18 6pm AA Meeting	19 3 - 5:30 pm Food Share	20 6 – 8pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	21	22
23 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	24	25 6pm AA Meeting	26	27 6 – 8pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	28	29
30 10 am Worship	31					

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COURIER



March 2025

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA

