



Dear Friends in Christ,
As I write this, it is Ascension Day, May 29th, forty days after Easter Sunday. On this day, 80% of the way through Eastertide, the Church commemorates the ascension of Jesus into heaven while the slightly stunned, yet joyous disciples look on.

Were they like those who watch the launch of a rocket

into space, shading their eyes and looking up, even long after they could see anything at all? Exhilarated and afraid at the same time?

Acts 1:10-11. "While (Jesus) was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, Men of Galilee, who do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.?"

What's next? Even though Jesus had reminded his followers that there would be a time when he was no longer physically with them, that the Holy Spirit was coming, it must have been hard for them to imagine. What would this kingdom that Jesus had been proclaiming look like when he had returned to the Father? How would their lives change?

What were those 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost like? The book of Acts says the disciples devoted themselves to prayer and to some administrative housekeeping, replacing Judas Iscariot with Matthias by the casting of lots. They must have flashed back to Jesus' ascension, wondering if things were ever going to be as good as they had been.

But one thing we know...God doesn't stand still.

There are numerous examples in the bible when something extraordinary happens in the sky, signifying a transition to something new.

June Readings

June 01

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97 (12)
Revelation 22:12-14,
16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

June 02

Psalm 29
Exodus 40:16-38
Acts 16:35-40

June 03

Psalm 29
2 Chronicles 5:2-14
Acts 26:19-29

June 04

Psalm 29
Ezekiel 3:12-21
Luke 9:18-27

June 05

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Isaiah 32:11-17
Galatians 5:16-25

June 06

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Isaiah 44:1-4
Galatians 6:7-10

June 07

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
2 Kings 2:1-15a
Luke 1:5-17

June 08

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17 [25-27]

June 09

Psalm 48
Joel 2:18-29
1 Corinthians 2:1-11

June 10

Psalm 48
Ezekiel 11:14-25
1 Corinthians 2:12-16

I think about when Elijah ascends in the whirlwind aboard the chariot of fire into heaven in the presence of Elisha, who watches his master go, then tears his clothes in two in grief. (2 Kings 2:11-12).

Or the shepherds in Luke 2 who hear the proclamation of the angels about the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. After watching the sky and the angels return to heaven, the shepherds regained their composure and journeyed to Bethlehem to see for themselves this thing that had been made known to them. (Luke 2:8-16).

Or later in Acts when Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is about to be stoned to death under the watchful eye of Saul. (Acts 7:55-56) But filled with the Holy Spirit, (Stephen) gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" And then he repeats the words Jesus utters from the cross just before the rocks fly. "Father forgive them!"

We hear again and again that the church in is a time of transition and change. This is true. After 36 years of ordained ministry, I have witnessed both cultural and global changes that would have been hard for me to imagine in 1989. At 26, I was excited to be entering ministry at a time of change. New liturgies, new music, new methods for outreach and spiritual growth.

Now, I am the old guy. I find myself less excited about the words, "New" and "Improved". Am I becoming the kind of pastor that I used to complain about? The one who is slow to adapt to new technologies and ways of doing things?

When we look at all of salvation history, if we are honest, things never really stand still. The promised Holy Spirit is always leading the church forward, challenging our preconceptions about what it means to be children of God. Movements and leaders may come and go, but they are just part of a story that is still being written. The one who was, who is, and who is to come, wouldn't have it any other way.

So, when the church finds itself gazing into the sky, wondering what's next, we can find comfort in another of the promises of Jesus given to his followers just before his ascension.

And Jesus said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all



June 11

Psalm 48
Numbers 24:1-14
Luke 1:26-38

June 12

Psalm 8
Proverbs 3:13-18
Ephesians 1:17-19

June 13

Psalm 8
Proverbs 3:19-26
Ephesians 4:1-6

June 14

Psalm 8
Proverbs 4:1-9
Luke 2:41-52

June 15

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8 (2)
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

June 16

Psalm 124
Proverbs 7:1-4
Ephesians 4:7-16

June 17

Psalm 124
Proverbs 8:4-21
Ephesians 5:15-20

June 18

Psalm 124
Daniel 1:1-21
Luke 1:46b-55

June 19

Psalm 42 and 43
Genesis 24:1-21
Romans 2:17-29

June 20

Psalm 22:19-28
Isaiah 57:1-13
Galatians 3:15-22

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

So, what's next? Something new. Something different. Something eternal. Let's keep our heads up and pay attention. Don't want to miss what God has in store for us.

Peace!
Pastor Craig



Coffee Creek Quilters Update

Recently, I took some large pieces of quilt-weight cotton to the Coffee Creek Quilters' fabric depot on the St. Francis of Assisi property. This material was leftover from our now-disbanded quilt group's stash. The volunteers thanked us &

showed me their own very colorful & well-organized stash. This program is bringing joy and growth to many people: incarcerated women, their families, and the volunteers certainly. On the organization's website (<https://coffeecreekquilters.org/>), I also learned the women sometimes sew pillowcases for foster children.

CLC supported this program in the past. If you're interested in it, they're open to volunteers—from once-a-month donation experts (people skills) to perhaps more time commitment for those with sewing skills.

If you'd like to donate fabric or funds, there are guidelines on the website under "Get involved." The basic idea for fabric is 100% cotton, large (over a yard), shirt/quilt/calico weight, plus some guidelines on colors/designs. Donation times are listed on the website.

I'm looking for people and groups who want to use the other materials in our CLC stash. If you know of anyone using fabrics to help others, contact me. We have a supply of banner-making materials, heavier cottons, smaller scraps, and A LOT of upholstery samples.

Lynn Ries: lynn@familyries.com or 503-880-8095



June 21

Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28 (22)
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 22

Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28 (22)
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 23

Psalm 64
Job 18:1-21 1
Corinthians 1:18-31

June 24

Psalm 64
Job 19:1-22
Ephesians 2:11-22

June 25

Psalm 64
Ezekiel 32:1-10
Luke 9:37-43a

June 26

Psalm 16
Leviticus 9:22-10:11
2 Corinthians 13:5-10

June 27

Psalm 16
2 Kings 1:1-16
Galatians 4:8-20

June 28

Psalm 16
Deuteronomy 32:15-27, 39-43
Luke 9:21-27

June 29

Acts 12:1-11
Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7 (3)
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
John 21:15-19

June 30

Genesis 24:34-41, 50-67
1 John 2:7-11
Psalm 140



Service Helpers June

June 1

Reader: Mike Boonstra

Ushers: Lynn Bloomfield &
Ilene Marnella

Donuts: Marie Gunther

June 8

Reader: Lynn Ries

Ushers: Lynn & John Ries

Coffee Host: Helen David

June 15

Reader: Dan Harms

Ushers: Dan & Lonnie Harms

Coffee Hosts: Susan Williamson
& Doris Grider

June 22

Reader: Carolyn Popma

Ushers: Dennis Lewis &
Wyatt Akin

Coffee Hosts: Lynn Bloomfield &
Lonnie Harms

June 29

Reader: Kenton Wolfe

Usher: Marvis Gilnett

Potluck

Deadline For Annual Reports

Our annual meeting is scheduled for June 22.

If you are on a committee or team that usually prepares a report for the meeting, start gathering your information soon. They are due early in June. We are asking that each committee team or group give us 4-6 bullet points that summarize what your group is all about and what you have accomplished this past year. If you want you can include members names and any goals that you may have for the coming year.

If you have a financial report that you normally share submit that too. We will then create a power point presentation using your information that can easily be shared at the annual meeting. You will be asked to make any oral presentations but if possible it would be good if someone from your committee team or group could be at the meeting on June 22nd to answer any questions.

Please submit your information to the church office by Sunday morning June 8th.



In Our Hearts & Prayers

Prayers for	Requested by
Abraham	Barb B.
Anna (Grider) Westcott	Jim & Doris
Bankhead Family	Wyatt Akin
Barb Bannister	PC
Barbara Whitford	Heather W
Beth Brandt	Mary W.
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and
Bob and Sally Boonstra	Doris Grider
Bonnie and Bruce Johnson Fami-	PC
Brooke	Heather W
Bruce Baker	Kevin Baker
Bud Richard and Family	Kimberly Mack-
Burt Aus	Judi Aus
Carol Smith	Helen D
Chad Roberson	PC
Charles G.	PC
Colin Brown	Heather W
Cindy Caufield	Susan W
Dan Wechter	Heather Wecher
Dana St. Clair	Diane Schaber
Dennis Ormseth	Mary W.
Dixie Scheehean	PC
Dyrdahl Family	PC
Ellen Paulson	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Eleanor Zawada	Barb Bannister
Eric Wechter	PC
Evie Berg	PC
Gary Erb	Barb B.
Heather Wechter	PC
Heide Hendrick	PC
Heidi Daniel Family	PC
Hollinger Family, Ellie	Kimberly Mack-
Howard & Kathy Brandt	Mary W.
Jan G	PC
Jean Ruter	Mary W.
Jeannine Brumley	PC
Jerry McKenzie	Sharon G.
Jo Miller	Kimberly Mack-
JoAnn Caufield Family	Cindy C
Joanna Painter	Dixie
Judy Kretzmann	PC

Kate	PC
Kim	Lisa
Kimberly Kyser	Cindy C
Larry Marnella	Ilene Marnella
Laurie Boyce	PC
Linda Fender	Dan and Lonnie
Lorrie D	PC
Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan
Mark Kynsi	Wyatt Akin
Marlene McDonald	Amy Elliott
Marvis Gilnett	PC
Mary Wolfe	PC
Matthew Brown	Heather W
Matt H	PC
Melody Sledz	Mary W.
Micah Akin	Wyatt Akin
Mike Harms	Dan and Lonnie
Mike McCue	Heather Wecht-
Misty Mann	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Molly Fowler	Barb B.
Oscar D	Sam D
Patti Busse Family	PC
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
WilloDene 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.

Backpack Buddies help June 12

There are only two more serving opportunities for Backpack Buddies this school year. CLC will be putting together sacks next Thursday, May 29 and two weeks later on June 12. Volunteers meet at 10 a.m. in the church basement.

Burns Disaster Relief Support

This past month, a highly destructive flood near Burns, Oregon has damaged hundreds of homes, including those on the Burns Paiute Reservation. Church of the Living Waters, an ELCA Mission pastored by congregational friend Pastor Matt Littau (he worshipped with us and played in our praise band when between calls about 15 years ago) has been deeply impacted. (Former members Don and Debbie Greenfield also became connected to this ministry when they moved to Burns in the early 2010's.). The Oregon Synod is helping to coordinate a flood relief effort. You can [give online](https://onrealm.org/OregonSynod/-/form/give/disasterrelief) at <https://onrealm.org/OregonSynod/-/form/give/disasterrelief>, or mail a check payable to Oregon Synod, with "Burns Relief" in the memo.



Burt Aus	6
Mike Teal	14
Julie Parielli-Manetti	15
Kimi Snell	19
Jayne Lewis	20
Wayne Tiusamen	20
Ryan Popma	22
Bob Bannister	28
Bob Boonstra	30
Heather Wechter	30



Pastor Craig & Karen Johnson	1
Monty & Kristi Zwicker	7
Kenton & Mary Wolfe	10
Tom & Sylvia Peter	14
Laney & Kevin Baker	26
Susan & Dale Williamson	30

June

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 6 pm AA	4	5	6 6 – 8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	7
8 10 am Warship	9	10 6 pm AA	11	12	13 6 – 8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	14 5:15-6:15 pm AA Speaker Series
15 10 am Warship 11:15 am Council	16	17 6 pm AA	18 3-5 pm Marion/ Polk Pythian Hall	19	20 6 – 8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	20
22 10 am Warship	23	24 6 pm AA	25 3-4 pm North Marion Services Team	26	27 6 – 8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	27
28 10 am Warship	29	30 6 pm AA	31			9

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COURIER

June 2025

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA

