

## The Power of Story

Dear Friends in Christ,

On September 18, I had the privilege of attending the premiere of a film event at the Mark Prairie Schoolhouse that did not disappoint. The film *Settlers of Canby* was a project near and dear to the heart of the late Frank Cutsforth, a man who loved his community and who wanted others to know some of the stories of the early pioneer families who came to this area and made a home here.

The historic Mark Prairie Schoolhouse, the venue for the gathering, was originally built in 1879 and badly damaged by an Ice Storm in February of 2021. Through the diligent work of the Mark Prairie Historical Society and our congregation's own Judi Aus, the fully restored space is now available for tours and community events. It was a great setting for the premiere.

Filmed at the historic Harms Homestead four years ago, *Settlers of Canby* offered a roundtable discussion, featuring six descendants of local pioneer families sharing their memories of growing up in the rural Macksburg, Gribble, and Mark Prairie areas south of Canby. Roundtable discussion members included Dan Harms his brother Mike (Doc) as well as Judi (Wolfer) Aus. Mike passed away just this year.

Some of the stories shared in the film, I was familiar with. (Like Les Peter and his brother Fred encountering skunks on their way to school and smelling so bad that classes were cancelled). Others were a revelation. What I was struck by was how familiar the process for telling these

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## Daily Readings

### October 01

Psalm 62  
Hosea 12:2-14  
Matthew 19:16-22

### October 02

Psalm 37:1-9 2  
Kings 18:1-8 28-36  
Revelation 2:8-11

### October 03

Psalm 37:1-9  
2 Kings 19:8-20 35-37  
Revelation 2:12-29

### October 04

Psalm 37:1-9  
Isaiah 7:1-9  
Matthew 20:29-34

### October 05

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
Psalm 37:1-9 (5)  
2 Timothy 1:1-14  
Luke 17:5-10

### October 06

Psalm 3  
Habakkuk 1:5-17  
James 1:2-11

### October 07

Psalm 3  
Habakkuk 2:5-11  
1 John 5:1-5 13-21

### October 08

Psalm 3  
Habakkuk 2:12-20  
Mark 11:12-14 20-24

### October 09

Leviticus 14:33-53  
2 Timothy 1:13-18  
Psalm 111

stories felt to me. To watch those friends seated together in a living room, telling stories, one feeding off another. Then it struck me...It felt like the gathering of family and friends together to plan a funeral or memorial service.

One of the privileges of ministry is to accompany a family through the process of memorializing their loved ones. In just the last month, I will have presided over or assisted with three funeral/memorial services. At each of them, there was a common process before, where we gathered to plan that service. Stories were told, and I took notes. Some of them brought tears; other stories laughter and knowing smiles. All of those stories helped to reanimate the loved one who had passed and made them feel quite alive.

Humans are a story telling species. This October, for the first time in almost a quarter of a century, my beloved Seattle Mariners have won their division and are hosting an American League Division Series playoff game. Baseball, maybe more than any other American sport, lends itself to storytelling. I find myself reminiscing with other Mariner fans, talking about the joys and struggles of being a supporter of an historically underperforming club, the only one to never make it to a World Series. We remember together their first playoff run in 1995, the "Refuse to Lose" team that made it to the American League Championship by beating the New York Yankees in a remarkable comeback. Or we might talk about the 2001 team, that set a record for the number of regular-season wins (116), only to fall short of the World Series to those same Yankees. Hopefully, this October ends the Mariner's drought.

As Lutheran Christians, the month of October is a time when we remember the reformer whose name we have taken. In 1517, on October 31<sup>st</sup>, Martin Luther, a young Augustinian Monk, nailed 95 points of debate to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, thus beginning a movement that we now know as the Protestant Reformation. We celebrate the

**October 18**

Psalms 121  
Genesis 32:3-21  
Mark 10:46-52

**October 19**

Genesis 32:22-31  
Psalms 121 (2)  
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

**October 20**

Psalms 57  
1 Samuel 25:2-22  
1 Corinthians 6:1-11

**October 21**

Psalms 57  
1 Samuel 25:23-35  
James 5:7-12

**October 22**

Psalms 57 1  
Samuel 25:36-42  
Luke 22:39-46

**October 23**

Psalms 84:1-7  
Jeremiah 9:1-16  
2 Timothy 3:1-9

**October 24**

Psalms 84:1-7  
Jeremiah 9:17-26  
2 Timothy 3:10-15

**October 25**

Psalms 84:1-7  
Jeremiah 14:1-6  
Luke 1:46-55

**October 26**

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22  
Psalms 84:1-7 (5)  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

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last Sunday of October by wearing red and commemorating Luther's brave stance in defense of Gospel principles.

Last year, Christ Lutheran Church celebrated our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with lots of storytelling. How, 20 years after the building of Mark Prairie Schoolhouse, a handful of mostly German immigrants chartered our congregation. It was rewarding to help put together the anniversary event, looking back over historical documents and talking to descendants of longtime members, helping to see how our past helped to define our story in the present and in the years to come. There was a lot to be proud of in there!

Celebrating the past is fulfilling. But if we honestly tell our stories, we know that they are not simply a highlight reel. There are struggles. Our pioneer ancestors died of disease and accidents. Economic hardship resulted in some lean years. Neighbors and family members went off to war, and some did not return. Some families split up and others had skeletons that were buried deep, only to resurface. Our story is often messy. That messiness is a part of who we are too.

I am concerned when we as individuals, families, communities, and nations, too easily gloss over the messy parts of our history. Just as there are things to celebrate as a nation, there are things that we need to repudiate, like racial, environmental, and economic injustice, or we will simply be doomed to repeat them. Confession precedes penance and absolution. It is part of working toward what the founders called, "A more perfect union."

Much of our religious history is messy too. The people of Israel strayed from God's purpose time and time again. Peter denied knowing Jesus and a younger Paul persecuted Christ's followers. Luther said some very antisemitic things that cannot be defended. I have books by Lutheran Biblical Scholars who, in their younger years, collaborated with the Reich Church under Hitler. (Not everyone was a Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

### **October 10**

Numbers 4:34 —5:4  
2 Timothy 2:1-7  
Psalm 111

### **October 11**

Psalm 111  
Numbers 12:1-15  
Luke 5:12-16

### **October 12**

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c  
Psalm 111 (1)  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19

### **October 13**

Psalm 61  
2 Kings 5:15-19a  
Acts 26:24-29

### **October 13**

2 Kings 5:15-19a  
Acts 26:24-29  
Psalm 61

### **October 14**

Psalm 61  
2 Kings 5:19b-27  
Ephesians 6:10-20

### **October 15**

Psalm 61  
2 Kings 15:1-7  
Matthew 10:5-15

### **October 16**

Psalm 121  
Isaiah 54:11-17  
Acts 17:22-34

### **October 17**

Psalm 121  
Genesis 31:43-32:2  
2 Timothy 2:14-26

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## **Fabric Donation event October 15**

### **From Lynn Ries**

With the resumption of quilting classes at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Coffee Creek Quilters is taking donations.

Donations can be brought to Wisdom House, the small white building at the back end of the parking lot for St Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Wilsonville (8818 SW Miley Road) from 10 am to 11:30 am, Saturday October 15. Volunteers will be there to accept donations. Donor receipts will also be available.

Curious about volunteering? Talk to one of us!

Please bring only the fabric and supplies needed for the classroom and release kits. Review the suggestions below as you put together your donation.

- \*One yard or more of 100% cotton quilting fabric. Think about what would work for children's quilts and comfort quilts in hospitals and nursing homes. Particularly popular are bright colors, blacks and grays, and batiks.
- \*Panels – nature scenes, bears, wolves, Indigenous themes.
- \*Backings are always needed.
- \*Cotton batting 45 by 65 or larger.
- \*Packaged precuts – layer cakes, fat quarters, jelly rolls, charm packs.
- \*Notions for release kits – quilting rulers, needles, rotary cutter blades, rotary cutters, cutting boards, universal sewing machine needles.
- \*Thread.
- \*Quilting books – no more than five years old and no templates.
- \*Patterns – beginner to confident-beginner using squares, rectangles and half square triangles.
- \*Quilt kits – beginner to confident-beginner for release kits.

### **October 27**

Psalm 84:8-12 1  
Samuel 2:1-10 1  
Peter 4:12-19

### **October 28**

Psalm 84:8-12  
Daniel 5:1-12 1  
Peter 5:1-11

### **October 29**

Psalm 84:8-12  
Daniel 5:13-31  
Matthew 21:28-32

### **October 30**

Psalm 32:1-7  
Proverbs 15:8-11 24-33  
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

### **October 31**

Psalm 32:1-7  
Job 22:21-23:17  
2 Peter 1:1-11



**Birthdays**

- Kimberly Macklin 5
- Lynn Ries 5
- Bill Lockett 10
- Alex Saffer 20
- Brenda Eggert 21
- Charles Gunther 21
- Kyle Zwicker 23
- Gina Bayless 26
- Don Greenfield 27
- Cindy Caufield 27
- Katie Zwicker 28
- Thorsten Elliott 29

**Anniversaries**

- Eva & Glen Nelson 20

One of the privileges of serving a congregation and a community for a long time (24+ years) is that I have had the joy of learning your stories. The joys and the sorrows. And through it all, the laughter, the smiles, and the tears, Jesus speaks to us. And loves us...And calls us to love and serve one another.

Blessed be the story, Christ's and our own.

Peace!

Pastor Craig

<b>Worship Helpers</b>	
<p><b>October 5</b></p> <p>Reader: Dan Harms</p> <p>Ushers: Dan &amp; Lonnie Harms</p> <p>Donuts: Carolyn Popma</p> <p><b>October 12</b></p> <p>Reader Mike Boonstra</p> <p>Ushers: Dennis Lewis &amp; Wyatt Akin</p> <p>Coffee Hosts: Marvis Gilnett &amp; Helper</p>	<p><b>October 19</b></p> <p>Reader: Burt Aus</p> <p>Ushers: Burt &amp; Judi Aus</p> <p>Coffee Host: open</p> <p><b>October 26</b></p> <p>Reader: Lynn Ries</p> <p>Ushers: Lynn &amp; John Ries</p> <p>Coffee Host: Kimberly Pearson</p>

## In Our Hearts & Prayers

Prayers for	Requested by
Anna (Grider) Westcott	Jim & Doris Grider
Bankhead Family	Wyatt Akin
Belinda Kjensrud	Kim Mackiln
Beth Brandt	Mary W.
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and Mary Wolfe
Bishop Emeritus Paul	PC
Bob Boonstra Family	PC
Brenden Blum Family	PC
Brooke	Heather W
Bruce Baker	Kevin Baker
Bud Richard and Family	Kimberly Macklin
Burt Aus	Judi Aus
Carol Smith	Helen D
Chad Roberson	PC
Charles G.	PC
Colin Brown	Heather W
Cindy Caufield	Susan W
Cindy Miles	PC
Cora	Jackie Kimbal
Dana St. Clair	Diane Schaber
Dennis Ormseth	Mary W.
Diane Schaber	PC
Dixie Scheehean	PC
Dyrdahl Family	PC
Ellen Paulson	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Eric Wechter	PC
Ernie Peter	PC
Evie and Ron Berg	PC
Gary Erb	Barb B.
Heide Hendrick	PC
Helen David	Barb Bannister
Hollinger Family, Ellie	Kimberly Macklin
Howard & Kathy Brandt	Mary W.

- 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.

Prayers for	Requested by
Jan G	PC
Jean Ruter	Mary W.
Jeannine Brumley	PC
Jo Miller	Kimberly Macklin
Joanna Painter	Dixie
John Schaber	PC
Joyce Colvin	PC
Judi Aus	PC
Keven Christiansen	PC
Kim	Lisa
Kimberly Kyser	Cindy C
Larry Marnella	Ilene Marnella
Laurie Boyce	PC
Linda Bradley	Lonnie Harms
Linda Fender	Dan and Lonnie Harms
Lorrie D	PC
Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan Harms
Mark Kynsi	Wyatt Akin
Marlene McDonald	Amy Elliott
Marsha	Julie Parelli-Minetti
Mary Wolfe	PC
Matt H	PC
Melody Sledz	Mary W.
Micah Akin	Wyatt Akin
Misty Mann	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Noe Valenzuela Valles-	Kiera Will
Oscar D	Sam D
Pete Peterson	Sharon G
Phyllis Murray, family of	Marie G.
Piper	Heather W
Richard Dyrdahl	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Robert	Jordain
Roy Steven	Joyce
Shirley Ann Andreason	Ilene Marnella
Tammara Davidson	PC
Traci	Barb B.
Vi Anderson	Judi
Virgil Pettit Family	PC
William Wood	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Yvonne, Family of	Julie Parelli-Minetti

# October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 6 pm Wellbriety	4
5 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	6 6:30 pm Aurora Emergency Preparedness	7 6 pm AA	8	9	10 6 pm Wellbriety	11 5:15 pm AA Speaker Series
12 10 am Worship 11 am Council Meeting 7 pm AA	13	14 6 pm AA	15 3 pm Marion/Polk Food Share	16 10 am Backpack Buddies	17 6 pm Wellbriety	18
19 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	20 Bishop's Covo	21 Bishop's Covo 6 pm AA	22 Bishop's Covo	23	24 6 pm Wellbriety	25
26 Reformation Sunday 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	27	28 3-4:30 pm North Marion Services Team Meeting, 6 pm AA	29	30	31	

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# COURIER



October 2025

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA

