

Prepare, Celebrate, Grow

Dear Friends in Christ,

Back in September, Christ Lutheran hosted a retired Pastor's Luncheon sponsored by the Synod Bishop's office and Lutheran Community Services Northwest. I was surprised by what a robust turn out there was for the event. It was good to see so many colleagues, both retired and still serving, all under one roof and enjoying each other's company.

One friend, Pastor David Eppelsheimer, I was seeing in his new role as the Oregon Synod Mobility Specialist. (He helps congregations and rostered clergy with the call process in our synod). Until recently, he had served a congregation in Hillsboro and we both had been a part of a clergy cohort focusing on transformational ministry in the late 2010's.

When David walked into our narthex, he immediately noticed the series of colored, framed art pieces that sit above our church mailboxes. There are five of them; blue, purple, white/gold, red, and green. "The seasons of the liturgical year", he correctly described. He then asked where they had come from.

I told him that they were a gift to me from Susan Black, an Aurora Artist who created them as a "thank you" for our church hosting the Aurora Art Show back in 2016 and 2017. In addition to being a fantastic artist, Susan is Roman Catholic and has been an active part of the Benedictine Sisters community in Mt Angel. Knowing that Lutherans and Catholics both embrace the liturgical calendar, she wanted to make something for us to express her gratitude for our support. The pieces have been resting on top of the mailboxes while I have been trying to find a more permanent place to display them.

David looked at me and told me a story. "As a pastor, I was familiar with the seasons and the colors of the liturgical year, but another pastor friend, Stuart Holland, clarified for me how the seasons all hold together in a repeating cycle; Prepare, Celebrate, and Grow."

I had not heard that exact description before either. Prepare, Celebrate, and Grow. Advent and Lent (Blue and Purple) are seasons of reflection and preparation. They lead us to days

Daily Bible Readings**December 01**

Psalm 124
Genesis 8:1-19
Romans 6:1-11

December 02

Psalm 124
Genesis 9:1-17
Hebrews 11:32-40

December 03

Psalm 124
Isaiah 54:1-10
Matthew 24:23-35

December 04

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Isaiah 4:2-6
Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

December 05

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Isaiah 30:19-26
Acts 13:16-25

December 06

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Isaiah 40:1-11
John 1:19-28

December 07

Second Sunday
of Advent

December 08

Psalm 21
Isaiah 24:1-16a
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

December 09

Psalm 21
Isaiah 41:14-20
Romans 15:14-21

December 10

Psalm 21
Genesis 15:1-18
Matthew 12:33-37

December 11

Psalm 146:5-10
Ruth 1:6-18
2 Peter 3:1-10

Prepare, Celebrate, Grow

and seasons of celebration, (White/Gold...Christmas and Easter respectively). After the celebratory seasons, Green predominates, with the ordinary seasons of Epiphany in the winter and the weeks after Pentecost Sunday, focusing on discipleship and growing in faith.

The cycle of the church year is beginning anew this week. Advent is just underway as we prepare for the joy of the incarnation of Christ and reflect on its meaning for us. The blue of this season is full of hope, expectation, and longing. About 40 years ago, Lutherans began embracing the color blue for this season before Christmas. Blue is associated in art with the Virgin Mary, a color she is often depicted wearing.

Blue can also be a feeling. In even more recent years, some churches have even set aside the night of the winter solstice for a Blue Christmas Service, or Longest Night Service, to provide comfort to those who are grieving, lonely, or struggling during the holidays. We remember that being fully human is not always easy, but that we do not need to go it alone.

The preparatory seasons are not just a means to an end. They have value in and of themselves. Skipping over preparation and reflection deprives us of the full experience of our humanity and even dampens the joy of the coming celebration.

So, another Advent Season is upon us, and with it, an opportunity to prepare and reflect. "The unexamined life is not worth living." So said Socrates, the ancient Greek philosopher, over 2,400 years ago. As part of our Lutheran tradition, we also ask questions regarding our faith, "What does it mean for us?"

So, in your seasonal preparations, take a moment to breathe. Be quiet. Look at art. Journal. Read your advent devotions. Pray. Marvel at the fluidity of a candle flame. Be still, and know that you, like the Christ Child, are loved.

Still, still, still, the night is cold and chill!
The virgin's tender arms unfolding,
Warm and safe the Christ child holding.
Still, still, still, the night is cold and chill.

With you on the preparatory path!

Pastor Craig

December 12

Psalms 146:5-10
Ruth 4:13-17
2 Peter 3:11-18

December 13

Psalms 146:5-10
1 Samuel 2:1-8
Luke 3:1-18

December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15

Psalms 42
Isaiah 29:17-24
Acts 5:12-16

December 16

Psalms 42
Ezekiel 47:1-12
Jude 1:17-25

December 17

Psalms 42
Zechariah 8:1-17
Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34

December 18

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
2 Samuel 7:1-17
Galatians 3:23-29

December 19

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
2 Samuel 7:18-22
Galatians 4:1-7

December 20

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
2 Samuel 7:23-29
John 3:31-36

December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas

December 22

Luke 1:46b-55
Isaiah 33:17-22
Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20

December 23

Luke 1:46b-55
2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29
Galatians 3:6-14

December 24

Nativity of the Lord

Service Helpers for December 2025

December 7

Reader: Marie Gunther
Ushers: Burt and Judi Aus
Donuts: Carolyn Popma

December 14

Reader: Dale Williamson
Ushers: Dale and Susan Williamsom
Coffee Host: Sonya Johnson

December 21

PLEASE BRING CHRISTMAS COOKIES TO SHARE ON DECEMBER 21

Reader: Kenton Wolfe
Ushers: Dennis Lewis and Wyatt Akin
Christmas Cookie Event Host: Marie Gunther

December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Reader: Lynn Ries
Ushers: Lynn and John Ries

December 28

Reader: Lance Lyon
Usher: Lance Lyon
Coffee Host: Helen David – Needs a helper



December Birthdays

Evie Berg	7
Sonya Johnson	14
Jenni Luckett	17
Michelle Ripple	19
Dick Kaegi	21
Eva Nelson	22
Megan Popma	28
Steve Robert	28
Dan Harms	29
Taylor Miller	29



Aurora Presbyterian Invites You To

The community Christmas caroling event sponsored by the Aurora Presbyterian Church is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

Participants will meet at the church and then carol in the surrounding neighborhoods. Following the caroling, there will be hot chocolate and homemade cookies back at the church.



Christ Lutheran Church Christmas Blood Drive

Tuesday December 9th 11am - 4pm

All are WELCOME to DONATE!

No previous donor experience required.

You can also visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule your own appt. by calling the Red Cross at 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



4-ingredient Chocolate Mint Marble Slice

4 Ingredients

2 x 180g blocks dark chocolate, chopped

1 tsp peppermint
essence

2 x 180g blocks white chocolate, chopped

Green gel food coloring, to tint

Step 1

Grease a 20 x 30cm slice pan.

Line with baking paper.

Step 2

Place dark chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl.
Microwave on High for 1 minute 30 seconds, stirring
every 30 seconds, or until melted and smooth.
Add the peppermint essence and stir until combined.

Step 3

Place white chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl.
Microwave on High for 1 minute 30 seconds, stirring
every 30 seconds, or until melted and smooth.
Add food colouring to tint green. Stir until evenly
coloured.

Step 4

Spoon large dollops of the dark and white chocolate
mixtures, alternating mixtures, into prepared pan.
Tap pan on bench until mixture is level. Use a skewer
to marble the mixtures. Set aside for 2 hours or until
firm. Cut into slices to serve.

December 26

Psalm 148
Wisdom 4:7-15
Acts 7:59-8:8

December 27

Psalm 148
Proverbs 8:22-31
1 John 5:1-12

December 28

First Sunday after Christmas
Day

December 29

Psalm 20
Jeremiah 31:15-22
Luke 19:41-44

December 30

Psalm 20
Isaiah 26:1-9
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

December 31

Psalm 20
1 Kings 3:5-14
John 8:12-19



JOIN US
December 24, 2025
11 PM
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

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's Family	PC
Bud Richard and Family	Kimberly Macklin
Burt Aus	Judi Aus
Carol Smith	Helen D
Chad Roberson	PC
Casey Jordaine	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
Don Bassom Family	Dixie S.
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.
Jan G	PC
Jean Ruter	Mary W.
Jeannine Brumley	PC
Jo Miller	Kimberly Macklin

Prayers for	Requested by
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
Lorie Beyers	Kim Beyers
Lorrie D	PC
Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan Harms
Mark Kynsi	Wyatt Akin
Marlene McDonald	Amy Elliott
Marsha's Family	Julie Parelli-Minetti
Mary Wolfe	PC
Matt H	PC
Melody Sledz	Mary W.
Micah Akin	Wyatt Akin
Misty Mann	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Nancy Bayer Family	Dixie S.
Noe Valenzuela Valles-	Kiera Will
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
Tammara Davidson	PC
Traci	Barb B.
Vi Anderson	Judi
Virgil Pettit Family	PC
William Wood	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Yvonne, Family of	Julie Parelli-Minetti

- Those who are in hospice care.
- Those with memory care issues and those who care for them.
- Those receiving radiation or chemotherapy.
- Our loved ones serving in the armed forces, especially those serving overseas.



Giving TREE

Giving Tree Dates

✦ **DEC 8-9, 2025**

Volunteers (TBD) Shop for remaining unclaimed Gifts and Food Items and Bring to Church NLT Dec. 10th.

✦ **DEC 10, 2025 (Wed.)**

FINAL DAY TO DROP OFF GIFTS (wrapped/unwrapped) items TO CHURCH.

✦ **DEC 13, 2025 (Saturday) 11-1pm**

Come and help GIFT WRAP unwrapped and sort items at church as needed!

✦ **DEC 14, 2025 (Sunday)**

Bring any last-minute gifts to Church.

✦ **DEC 20, 2025 (Saturday) 12-3pm**

Final Sorting & Delivering of ALL Gift ITEMS to Families . Bring empty boxes for sorting. Large plastic bags will be provided for gifts.

✦ **DEC 20, 2025 (Saturday) 3-6pm**

Delivery to All Families for Gift, Food Items.

PICKUP ALL ITEMS @3pm at CLC if you are delivering items SEVERAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Arrive at 3pm to pick up your gifts and food items to be delivered to each family !!

✦ **Questions? Please contact below:**

✦ **Dean Pinto**

Cell: 503-803-4315

Email: soccer97070@msn.com.

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 pm Aurora Emergency Preparedness	2	3	4 6 pm Wellbriety	5	6
7 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	8 11-4 Red Cross Blood Drive 6 pm AA	9	10	11 10 am Backpack Buddies 6 pm Wellbriety	12	13 5:15 pm AA Speaker Series
14 10 am Worship (No Council Meeting) 7 pm AA	15	16 6 pm AA	17 3 pm Marion/Polk Food Share	18 6 pm Wellbriety	19	20 3-6pm Giving Tree Delivery
21 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	22	23 3-4:30 pm North Marion Services Team	24 11 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	25 Christmas Day 6 pm Wellbriety	26	27
28 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	29 Meeting, 6 pm AA	30	31	30 6 pm Wellbriety	31 New Year's Eve	

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COURIER



December 2025

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA



to the world, the LORD is come!