

Some Nice, Round Numbers to Celebrate in 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

I like nice, round numbers. They are easier to add, and easier to remember. We are commemorating some nice round numbers this year as a nation, as a city, and as a congregation.

250: This July 4th marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. While the 200th anniversary in 1976 was known as the Bicentennial, people can't seem to agree on what to call this celebration. I have seen "Semiquincentennial", "Bisesquincentennial", America 250, or "Quarter Millennium".

170: The Aurora Colony was officially established in 1856 by Dr. Wilhelm Keil at a Christian utopian communal society.

100: Luther House at OSU Established. In 1926, a young college student from Christ Lutheran Church, Hedwig Pardey, had a discussion with her pastor, The Rev William Schoeler, about the lack of a Lutheran Student Ministry at Oregon State College in Corvallis. After working to recruit a pastor for this task, Pastor Schoeler decided to begin this ministry himself.

70: Sanctuary Completion and dedication in April, 1956. On Easter Sunday, 1956, after years of dreaming and hard work, the congregation celebrated the completion of our current church building with a festival celebration. There is a photo of the front of the church taken on this day in the fellowship hall near the kitchen.

February 01
Fourth Sunday
after the Epiphany
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15 (1)
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

February 02
Presentation of the Lord
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15 (1)
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

February 03
Psalm 37:1-17
Ruth 2:1-16
James 5:1-6

February 04
Psalm 37:1-17
Ruth 3:1-13 4:13-22
Luke 6:17-26

February 05
Psalm 112:1-9
Deuteronomy 4:1-14 1
John 5:1-5

February 06
Psalm 112:1-9
Isaiah 29:1-12
James 3:13-18

February 07
Psalm 112:1-9
Isaiah 29:13-16
Mark 7:1-8

February 08
Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10] (4) 1
Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

February 09
Psalm 119:105-112
2 Kings 22:3-20
Romans 11:2-10

From Pastor Craig

25: In July of 2026 I will celebrate 25 years with you as your pastor.

20: The Mission Endowment Fund at Christ Lutheran was established in 2006. It currently has almost \$200,000 in funds and distributes about \$7,000 a year in support of outreach ministries, hunger prevention, seminarian support, and educational scholarships.

I'm sure you may be able to come up with some more milestones for this year. Maybe you are having some yourself. A birthday, an anniversary, a class reunion?

This weekend, I am performing a wedding for Rick Pettitt and Karmen Brown. Both members of the North Marion High School Class of 1976, they reconnected this past year (thank you, E-Harmony) and will be married January 31st in a small ceremony in our sanctuary. Rick's parents Virgil and Faye Pettitt were among the first couples married in the "New" sanctuary in 1956. As an ode to Virgil and Faye, Rick and Karmen will reenact a photo in front of the altar, just like the one Rick's parents had taken 70 years ago. Congratulations Rick and Karmen.

Numbers from the scriptures have significance too.

For example...

7. The number of days in creation. One the 7th day, God established the Sabbath.

10. The number of commandments given to Moses on Mt Sinai.

12. The number of the tribes of Israel and the number of disciples.

February 10

Psalm 119:105-112
2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25
2 Corinthians 4:1-12

February 11

Psalm 119:105-112
Proverbs 6:6-23
John 8:12-30

February 12

Psalm 2
Exodus 6:2-9
Hebrews 8:1-7

February 13

Psalm 2
Exodus 19:9b-25
Hebrews 11:23-28

February 14

Psalm 2
1 Kings 21:20-29
Mark 9:9-13

February 15

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 (7) or Psalm 99 (9)
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

February 16

Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55
Exodus 33:7-23
Acts 7:30-34

February 17

Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55
1 Kings 19:9-18
Romans 11:1-6

Lent

February 18

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or
Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17 (1)
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

From Pastor Craig

40. The number of days it rained to flood the earth in the time of Noah. The number of years that the people of Israel spent in the wilderness after the Exodus and the number of days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by the devil. Also, the number of days between Easter and the Ascension.

50. The number of days from Easter to Pentecost.

70. The number of Jesus' followers commissioned in the Gospel of Luke to go out in pairs to share the good news. Also, tradition says that when the Hebrew scriptures were translated into Greek in the 3rd Century BCE, 70 scholars were recruited to create a common text. The Septuagint is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible and is sometimes referred to as "LXX", the Roman numeral for "70".

On February 18, we begin our Lenten Journey with Ash Wednesday. There are 40 days in Lent (46 days minus Sundays), the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter. In our readings, we will Journey with Jesus to the cross, commemorating his words and his passion.

Lent (Latin for "Spring") is a season to tend to our own baptismal callings to follow Jesus and remember those who live on the margins, especially the poor. The traditional disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting (doing without) and almsgiving (charitable giving). Through these practices we seek to align our lives more with the Kingdom Jesus proclaimed.

Numbers, be they round or not, point to something beyond themselves. May the coming days of the season ahead be a blessing and help you reflect and grow in Christ.

Peace!
Pastor Craig

February 19

Psalm 51
Jonah 3:1-10
Romans 1:1-7

February 20

Psalm 51
Jonah 4:1-11
Romans 1:8-17

February 21

Psalm 51
Isaiah 58:1-12
Matthew 18:1-7

February 22

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32 (10)
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

February 23

Psalm 32
1 Kings 19:1-8
Hebrews 2:10-18

February 24

Psalm 32
Genesis 4:1-16
Hebrews 4:14-5:10

February 25

Psalm 32
Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28
Matthew 18:10-14

February 26

Psalm 121
Isaiah 51:1-3
2 Timothy 1:3-7

February 27

Psalm 121
Micah 7:18-20
Romans 3:21-31

February 28

Psalm 121
Isaiah 51:4-8
Luke 7:1-10



February 1

Reader: Lance Lyon
Usher: Lance Lyon
Donut Helper: Carolyn Popma

February 8

Reader: Mike Boonstra
Usher: George Will
Coffee Hosts: Lynn Bloomfield and Lonnie Harms

February 15

Reader: Dale Williamson
Ushers: Sue and Dale Williamson
Coffee Host: Kimberly Pearson

February 22

Reader: Dean Pinto
Ushers: Judi and Burt Aus
Coffee Host: Marie Gunther



**Souper Bowl of Caring
February 8th**

We will be collecting non perishable food donations and monetary gifts to support Marion-Polk Food Share, our local food pantry partners.

As in the past, we will make it a competition between the two teams that have made it to the big game.

The team with the most food and dollar donations will be declared Souper Bowl Champion. Although not always a predictor of the winner of the actual Super Bowl, it can be a fun way to connect our outreach to the big day.



- 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 12 Krystal Snell
- Feb 16 Charlie Eggert
- Feb 23 Sophia Ries
- Feb 28 Marvis Gilnett



- Feb 1 Charles & Marie Gunther
- Feb 14 Colin & Jeanne Brown

Point of clarification on status of furnace in the shelter. About 20 years ago, our transitional shelter received funds and discounts to purchase and install a furnace for the downstairs shelter apartment in the parsonage. (This heats just the downstairs). While still operational, it is on its last legs. Sometime in the next year, we will likely need to replace it. Just to be clear, this is not referring to the furnace (boiler) in the main church building that was replaced in 2017.

In Our Hearts & Prayers

Prayers for	Requested by
Anna (Grider) Westcott	Jim & Doris Grider
Bankhead Family	Wyatt Akin
Benjamin Bliven	George Will
Belinda Kjensrud	Kim Macklin
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
Casey Jordaine	Lorrie Dyr Dahl
Chad Roberson Family	PC
Charles G.	PC
Colin Brown	Heather W
Cindy Caufield	Susan W
Cindy Miles	PC
Calvin Mankin	Julie
Cora	Jackie Kimbal
Dana St. Clair	Diane Schaber
Dennis Ormseth	Mary W.
Diane Schaber	PC
Dixie Scheehean	PC
Don Bassom Family	Dixie S.
Dyr Dahl Family	PC
Eileen Nelson	Eva Nelson
Ellen Paulson	Lorrie Dyr Dahl
Eric Wechter	PC
Ernie Peter	PC
Evie and Ron Berg	PC
Frank Schoenfeld	PC
Gary Erb Family	Barb B.
Gregory R	Kimberly Pearson
Heide Hendrick	PC
Helen David	Barb Bannister
Hollinger Family, Ellie	Kimberly Macklin
Howard & Kathy Brandt	Mary W.
Jamie Mehus Family	PC
Jan G	PC
Jean Ruter	Mary W.

Jenna Bozarth	Amy Elliott
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
Kristin Hosie	Tom Peter
Lance Lyon	PC
Larry Marnella	Ilene Marnella
Laurie Boyce	PC
Linda Bradley	Lonnie Harms
Linda Fender	Dan and Lonnie Harms
Loida Steward Family	Betty Gerhardt
Lorie Beyers	Kim Beyers
Lorrie D	PC
Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan Harms
Mark Kynsi	Wyatt Akin
Marsha's Family	Julie Parelli-Minetti
Marvis Gilnett	Heather W
Mary Wolfe	PC
Matt H	PC
Melody Sledz	Mary W.
Micah Akin	Wyatt Akin
Misty Mann	Lorrie Dyr Dahl
Nancy Bayer Family	Dixie S.
Oscar D	Sam D
Phyllis Murray, family of	Marie G.
Piper	Heather W
Richard Dyr Dahl	Lorrie Dyr Dahl
Robert	Jordain
Roy Steven	Joyce
Sam Dyr Dahl	Lorrie Dyr Dahl
Shirley Ann Andreason	Ilene Marnella
Steve Grider	Doris Grider
Tammara Davidson	PC
Traci	Barb B.
Vi Anderson	Judi
Virgil Pettit Family	PC
Wendy & Family	PC
William Wood	Lorrie Dyr Dahl
Yvonne, Family of	Julie Parelli-Minetti

Joyful Servant Grant 2026

JSG Application 2026 for up to \$650 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. For questions contact: Marie Gunther, Lance Lyon, Carey Pinto, Mike Boonstra, John Ries. Deadline for returns is April 12. Decisions will be made at the Endowment meeting on April 19 and announced the following Sunday. Return applications to Marie Gunther at blkbry@msn.com or put hard copies in her mailbox at church. applications to Marie Gunther at blkbry@msn.com or put hard copies in her mailbox at church.

LOVE is Something You Do

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	2 6:30-8pm Aurora Emergency Preparedness	3 6 pm AA	4	5 6 – 8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	6	7
8 Souper Bowl of Caring 10 am Worship 11:15 am Church Council 7 pm AA	9 6 pm AA	10 6 pm AA	11 3-4:30 pm Marion/ Polk Mobile Pantry, Rivenes Park, Hubbard	12 6 – 8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	13	14 5:15-6:15 pm AA Speaker Series
15 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	16 6 pm AA	17 6 pm AA	18 9 am Maplewood Grange BPB 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 6 – 8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	20	21 2 pm Carmen Weideman Memorial Service
22 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	23 3-4 pm North Marion Services Team 6 pm AA	24 3-4 pm North Marion Services Team 6 pm AA	25 3-4:30 pm Marion/ Polk Mobile Pantry, Rivenes Park, Hubbard	26 10 am Backpack Buddies 6 – 8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	27	28

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COURIER



February 2026

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA



XOXO
FEBRUARY

