



Annual Church Picnic in the Park

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 30, 2026 at 10 a.m. when we will join our friends from Aurora Presbyterian for our annual Worship/Picnic in the Park. Services that morning will be held at the amphitheater in Aurora City Park, followed by a potluck picnic. Hot dogs & burgers will be provided, as well as paper products, punch, water & coffee. We invite each family to bring a side dish and/or a dessert (not intended for the auction) to share. After the meal we will have our annual Pie and Dessert Auction which benefits our local Backpack Buddies program. Be watching for more details in the bulletin along with a signup sheet for ways you can help make this great success! Questions? Contact John Ries.

How does the Dessert Auction work???

- **Do you enjoy baking?** We are looking for pies, cakes, cookies or any type of desserts (homemade or purchased) for the auction.
- **We will need two categories for desserts:** open auction (especially decadent treats) and others fall into the \$5.00 table (example simple small plates of treats).
- Remember to mark your pie plates, cake pans or any other dessert dishes with your name if you would like them to be returned.

Aug 1

Isaiah 44:1-5
Matthew 7:7-11
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Aug 2

Matthew 14:13-21
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15 (15)

Aug 3

Deuteronomy 8:1-10
Romans 1:8-15
Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29

Aug 4

Deuteronomy 26:1-15
Acts 2:37-47
Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29

Aug 5

Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35
Matthew 15:32-39
Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29

Aug 6

1 Kings 18:1-16
Acts 17:10-15
Psalm 85:8-13

Aug 7

1 Kings 18:17-19, 30-40
Acts 18:24-28
Psalm 85:8-13

Aug 8

1 Kings 18:41-46
Matthew 16:1-4
Psalm 85:8-13

Aug 9

1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13 (8)
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Aug 10

Genesis 7:11—8:5
2 Peter 2:4-10
Psalm 18:1-19

The Essential Art of Civilization: Maintenance, Sustainment, and Keeping a Thing Going

Dear Friends in Christ,

The year 1968 was significant for our family. We took our first vacation together by airplane, visiting relatives and friends in Manitoba, Ontario, and Indiana. I graduated from Tiny Tots Preschool (with honors I'm sure) in the spring and started Kindergarten at Bellwood Elementary that fall, where, I am told, I drove my teacher crazy with my new-found ability to tell time. But what I remember most about that year was our family's acquisition of a symbol of middle-class success and educational aspiration...the 1968 edition of the World Book Encyclopedia.

The 1968 edition had 20 volumes, was red and black, and in my mind, contained all the necessary knowledge of the known world. Even before I could read, I remember leafing through the pages and looking at pictures of World War II era airplanes and different types of dinosaurs. As I got older and asked my parents questions about history or science, their response was usually, "Look it up!" In the early 1970's, I even used the encyclopedia as a bank of sorts for Christmas and Birthday dollars, ingeniously stashing bills in the volume with the letter "M" under the entry for "Money".

In that same year of 1968, unbeknownst to five-year-old me, another truly world changing volume of knowledge and civilization was published: The Whole Earth Catalog by Stewart Brand. In a 2005 address to the graduating class at Stanford University, Apple CEO Steve Jobs described the impact that Brand's book had on him and his generation. Jobs described The Whole Earth Catalog as "Google in paperback form", more than 30 years before the electronic search engine was created. It was put together with typewriters, Polaroid cameras, and a guiding philosophy that, with access to tools and information, you could change the world. A photo of the entire earth from space, courtesy of NASA, graced the cover.

I first learned about Stewart Brand in an interview with reporter Ezra Klein in the New York Times this past April. The print synopsis intrigued me, so I sought out the podcast of the entire interview. I was enthralled. Here was this 87-year-old man, with the broad curiosity of Benjamin Franklin and the soul of a philosopher, talking about his life and interests. His latest great venture, likely his last, was a multi-volume work called, The Maintenance of Everything. The first volume had just been completed.

As I listened to the interview, I wondered how I had missed ever hearing about Stewart Brand before. I guess my deep

Aug 11

Genesis 19:1-29
Romans 9:14-29
Psalm 18:1-19

Aug 12

Job 36:24-33; 37:14-24
Matthew 8:23-27
Psalm 18:1-19

Aug 13

Isaiah 45:20-25
Revelation 15:1-4
Psalm 67

Aug 14

Isaiah 63:15-19
Acts 14:19-28
Psalm 67 40

Aug 15

Isaiah 56:1-5
Matthew 14:34-36
Psalm 67

Aug 16

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67 (3)
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Aug 17

2 Kings 5:1-14
Acts 15:1-21
Psalm 87

Aug 18

Isaiah 43:8-13
Romans 11:13-29
Psalm 87

Aug 19

Isaiah 66:18-23
Matthew 8:1-13
Psalm 87

Aug 20

Ezekiel 28:11-19
1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Psalm 138

knowledge of the 1968 World Book Encyclopedia was insufficient. So, I Googled him.

What I learned amazed me. It seemed that Brand or his ideas were present at just about every important technical or cultural milestone of the last 60 years, Kind of like Forest Gump in the movie.

Now, nearing the end of his life, he was exploring the seemingly mundane topic of maintenance. The intro to his book explains why.

He quotes musician and poet Pete Seeger who proposed the following premise...

"You should consider the essential art of civilization is maintenance."

This intrigued me. I thought maintenance was eating healthy, brushing your teeth, and bringing your car to the mechanic when the minder light went off. When you skip these things, bad stuff happens. The old Fram Oil Filter commercial with Joe the mechanic comes to mind...You can buy the filter now or pay Joe later.

Instead, Brand encourages the reader to broaden the idea of maintenance from just "preventive maintenance" to "what it takes to keep a thing going". In his book, he also calls this broader definition of maintenance "sustainment". That could be a machine, a human being, a system, or an organization. The stuff you want to do before the real or metaphorical "check engine" light starts blinking.

So, what does all of this talk about Stewart Brand and "maintenance" have to do with our congregation and our ministry?

I propose that a significant part of what an Annual Report to the congregation is about is maintenance. Not just preventative maintenance, but sustainment. What does it take to keep this thing called Christ Lutheran Church going? What tools and resources are needed to sustain it?

Some of these tools and resources are financial. We include in our report budgets balances that show the cost of paying for staff, maintaining the building, and providing improvements like air conditioning. "Keeping the lights on" kind of things.

We also include reports from teams and leaders reporting accomplishments and sharing plans. The kinds of things we often refer to as mission and ministry. These include worship,

Aug 21

Ezekiel 31:15-18
2 Corinthians 10:12-18
Psalm 138

Aug 22

Ezekiel 36:33-38
Matthew 16:5-12
Psalm 138 41

Aug 23

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138 (8)
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Aug 24

1 Samuel 7:3-13
Romans 2:1-11
Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32

Aug 25

Deuteronomy
32:18- 20,28-39
Romans 11:33-36
Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32

Aug 26

Isaiah 28:14-22
Matthew 26:6-13
Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32

Aug 27

Jeremiah 14:13-18
Ephesians 5:1-6
Psalm 26:1-8

Aug 28

Jeremiah 15:1-9 2
Thessalonians 2:7-12
Psalm 26:1-8

Aug 29

Jeremiah 15:10-14
Matthew 8:14-17
Psalm 26:1-8

Aug 31

2 Samuel 11:2-26
Revelation 3:1-6
Psalm 17

music, outreach to the community, and benevolence. How did we use the resources we were given to accomplish the mission of the church? Looking down the road, what kind of "sustainment" work should we be preparing to do before the "check engine" light goes off.

There is another kind of maintenance to consider in a community like ours. The maintenance of relationships. These are part of the report too.

We print prayer lists so we can lift one another up in prayer and support. We prioritize fellowship hour so we can connect and catch up. We celebrate milestones like birthdays, anniversaries, and babies being born. We mourn together the passing of friends and family. We pray for communities that are suffering and send aid to help people who have lost loved ones to war, famine, or natural disasters.

One of the measurements of vitality in a community of faith is a relationship question. Bishop Laurie Larson-Caesar is always asking pastors and leaders the following; "Who is your congregation in relationship with?" We answer that question in our Annual Report as well.

Just this past year, we can include the following community partners.... North Marion Schools, The Aurora Emergency Preparedness Team, The American Red Cross, Clackamas County Health, Housing and Human Services (Transitional Shelter), Macksburg Lutheran Church (Transitional Shelter), North Marion Services Team (Dozens of Community Partners), The Aurora Colony Museum, 4 different recovery groups, Marion/Polk Food Share. Through Backpack Buddies we are working collaboratively with Aurora Presbyterian Church, North Marion Fellowship, Maplewood Grange, and Active Media Publishing. That's a lot of relationships!

On my bookshelf in my office, I have a book called, "From Maintenance to Mission: A Theology of the Congregation". The premise of the author is that a congregation should be progressing from one to the other. Under Stewart Brand's definition, the choice is not "maintenance or mission". To keep fulfilling this thing called church, we do one (maintain) to empower the other (mission). I think we do this well, but could always, by God's grace, do better.

My prayer for the coming year and the future of Christ Lutheran Church is that we continue to faithfully maintain our resources, our systems, and our relationships, for the mission of the Body of Christ. With God's help, let's sharpen our tools and keep this thing going!

Peace!

Pastor Craig



Tomatoes and peppers and beans, oh my!

It's that time of year when our veggie garden is a place of abundance. The garden is a service to both our congregation and the wider community. More volunteers needed for the high-volume period through September to pick veggies before services on Sundays. If Sundays are not ideal for you, come during the week--seven days is too long to go between harvests in late summer.

Questions? Contact Lynn Ries at: lynn@familyries.com

Annual Reports Due August 2

If you are on a committee or team that usually prepares a report for the Congregations Annual Report and Meeting, those reports are due August 2.

Please send them in electronic form (Word doc or PDF) to clcaurora5135@gmail.com.

The Annual Meeting itself is scheduled before worship on Sunday, August 16.

Aurora Colony Days Coffee and Water Station August 8

The Aurora Colony Days 5K fun run will happen on the morning of Saturday August 8, starting at 7:30 a.m. The starting line is right in front of the church entrance. In years past, we have provided a free coffee and water station in front of the church entrance. If you would like to help with this, please contact Pastor Craig at pastorcraigjohnson@gmail.com.



Service Helpers for August 2026

August 2

Reader: Dale Williamson
Ushers: Dale and Susan Williamson
Donuts: Carolyn Popma

August 9

Reader: Dean Pinto
Usher: Bonnie Johnson
Coffee Host: Marie Gunther

August 16

Reader: Dan Harms
Ushers: Dan and Lonnie Harms
Coffee Host: Kimberly Pearson

August 23

Reader: Lynn Ries
Ushers: Lynn and John Ries
Coffee Host: OPEN

August 30 Picnic in the Park

Reader: Mike Boonstra
Ushers: Lynn Bloomfield and Ilene Marnella

Prayers for	Requested by
Aliana Free	Kimberly Macklin
Anna (Grider) Westcott	Jim & Doris Grider
Bankhead Family	Wyatt Akin
Barb Bannister	PC
Barbara Remy	Helen David
Benjamin Bliven	George Will
Belinda Kjensrud	Kim Macklin
Beth Brandt	Mary W.
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and Mary Wolfe
Bob Boonstra Family	PC
Bob Yost	Ron Berg
Brenden Blum Family	PC
Brooke	Heather W
Bruce Baker's Family	PC
Bud Richard and Family	Kimberly Macklin
Burt Aus	Judi Aus
Casey Jordaine	Lorrie Dyrdaahl
Charles G.	PC
Colin Brown	Heather W
Cindy Caufield	Susan W
Calvin Mankin	Julie
Cora	Jackie Kimbal
Dale and Sue Williamson	Doris Grider
Dana St. Clair	Diane Schaber
Diane Horton	Barb Bannister
Diane Schaber	PC
Diane Scholze Family	Sharon Garrick
Dixie Scheehead	PC
Don Bassom Family	Dixie S.
Eileen Nelson	Eva Nelson
Ellen Paulson	Lorrie Dyrdaahl
Eric Wechter	PC
Ernie Peter Family	PC
Evie and Ron Berg	PC
Frank Schoenfeld	PC

Prayers for	Requested by
Gregory R	Kimberly Pearson
Harold Weideman	Heather Wilcox
Heide Hendrick	PC
Helen David	Barb Bannister
Hollinger Family, Ellie	Kimberly Macklin
Howard & Kathy Brandt	Mary W.
Jack Guthrie Family	PC
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 Family	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
Linda Williamson	Dale Williamson
Lorie Beyers	Kim Beyers
Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan
Mark Kynsi	Wyatt Akin
Marsha's Family	Julie Parelli-Minetti
Mary Wolfe	PC
Mason	Randy B
Melody Sledz	Mary W.
Micah Akin	Wyatt Akin
Mike McCue	Heather Wechter
Misty Mann	Lorrie Dyrdaahl



Nancy Beyers	6
Jim Grider	13
Joy Schulz	13
Lawson Roberts	15
Chris Flake	15
Heide Hendrick	19
Tom Peter	21
Kay Walter	23
Charlene Roberts	24
Glen Nelson	24
Linda Condon	26
Janet Swartout	30

Prayers for	Requested by
Nancy Bayer Family	Dixie S.
Nora Baker and Family	PC
Oscar D	Sam D
Phyllis Murray, family of	Marie G.
Piper	Heather W
Reed Ball	Kim Beyers
Richard Dyrdaahl	Lorrie Dyrdaahl
Rick and Karmen Pettit	PC
Robert	Jordain
Roy Steven	Joyce
Dyrdaahl family	Lorrie Dyrdaahl
Shannon	Lonnie
Shirley Ann Andreason	Ilene Marnella
Steve Grider	Doris Grider
Tammara Davidson	PC
Traci	Barb B.
Vi Anderson	Judi
Wendy & Family	PC
William Wood	Lorrie Dyrdaahl
Yvonne, Family of	Julie Parelli-Minetti



Judi & Burt Aus	12
Valerie & Mike Boomstra	28
John & Lynn Ries	30

Please Check Your Mailboxes for your birthday or anniversary card!

If you have birthday or anniversary card that you won't be using please place them in the basket in the fellowship area. Thank 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.

pray

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COURIER



August 2026

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA

