

THE CENTRALITE

January 2021



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN
CHRIST CONGREGATION

Central's Staff

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& Campus Ministry
Sister Clare Josef-Maier

Organist/Choirmaster
A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Associate Organist
Lindsey H. Rodgers

Parish Nurse Sally Diehm

Parish Administrator
Kristi Hoiland

Financial Manager
Cindy Culpepper

Children, Youth & Family
Coordinator Crystal Miller

Church Council

President, Dennis Lindsay
Vice Pres, Larry Sutton
Secretary, Jack Bennett
Co-Treas, Joyce Spence &
Charlotte Bontrager
Matt Haugen
Chris Henry
Deb Hudson
Lauralie Kallinen
Sonia Macke
Ike Olsson
Sheri Pyron

CENTRAL LUTHERAN MISSION STATEMENT
TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS BY:

*LOVING GOD AND ONE ANOTHER
NURTURING FAITHFUL LIVING
SERVING THOSE IN NEED
SHARING THE GOSPEL*

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PASTORAL INTERN, VICAR BEN NICKODEMUS AND FAMILY (see p. 6)

Vicar Ben will begin his ministry with us in mid-January. If you want to find out more about his internship with us before his arrival an informational session will take place at noon on 1/3/21 via Zoom. Email Pastor Laurie for the link.

WORSHIP WITH US Our Sunday Schedule

- **Sundays at 9am from home via live-stream**
- **Sundays at 9am in the Sanctuary (cap. 50)**
- **Sundays at 11am via Zoom (no in person)**

Worship with us from home via live-stream at 9am, in person at 9am or via Zoom at 11am. In keeping with OHA guidelines, worshipping in person at 9am requires registration. You can register by calling the church office or by going online at connecttocentral.org.

A podcast of the service is also available for later viewing at welcometocentral.org. The Zoom link has been sent out via email to members/friends of Central. However, if you're not currently on our listserv, or if you didn't receive it, please call or email the church office to request the link. Don't have a computer? No worries! You can also access Zoom Worship from any landline or smartphone. Call the church office to learn how to connect.

Dear Friends and Members of Central,

HERE'S TO SAYING GOOD-BYE, 2020 & HELLO, 2021

No, we're not out of the woods yet... Nevertheless I've heard a lot of people saying how glad they'll be to finally see the year 2020 in their rearview mirror. I could not agree more. Some have even said they plan to stay up until midnight this New Year's Eve just to make sure 2020 comes to a close. What a year it's been! And yet as people of promise and hope there is much to be thankful for as we look forward to ushering in each new year, and each and every new day, as a gift from God!

In fact, it occurred to me it may be time to revive an old custom of blessing our homes at Epiphany. In the gospel of Matthew we hear how the Magi followed the shining star to Bethlehem and found the child just as they had been told. "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matt. 2:10-11). Filled with great joy they bowed down and worshiped him.

In one of our Lutheran worship planning resources, *Sundays and Seasons*, published by Augsburg Fortress, I was reminded of these words: "In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome." Those words are true of course but they were written during normal times, and there has been nothing "normal" about this past year. Still, as I read about the ancient ritual around blessing a home at the beginning of a new year, I was reminded that Epiphany (January 6) offers an ideal occasion for the blessing of a home. One person can lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. "Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 21. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

Given the fact that we are being discouraged from gathering with extended family and friends in our homes at least for the foreseeable future, I thought it seemed fitting that we offer this blessing in our respective households as we look forward with hope and promise in the coming year—for ourselves, our families, our friends, our neighbors, and our world. And so I encourage you individually or as a household to use the service of blessing as it is printed on the next page asking God's blessing on your dwelling. May all your days be blessed with God's presence, not only in your homes, but also in your hearts.

In Christ's Abiding Love,

+Pastor Laurie

Blessing for a Home on Epiphany (January 6th)

Greeting

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. "By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures." (*Proverbs 24:3-4*)

Reading

As we prepare to ask God's blessing on this household and all who enter here, let us listen to the words of scripture. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being, and the life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." (*John 1:1-4, 14, 16*)

Inscription

This inscription may be made with chalk (or written on paper) above the entrance:

20 † C M B † 21

Write the appropriate character (left/bold) while speaking the text (right).

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar, **M** Melchior, **B** Balthasar,

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand **21** and twenty-one years ago.

† Christ, bless this house,

† and remain with us throughout the new year.

Prayer of Blessing

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from Come, Lord Jesus: Devotions for the Home (Augsburg Fortress, 1996). From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission through One License #A-706755.

WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

David Beckstein; Lou Berg; Karl Bergstrom; Terry Chap; Nicole Christie; Judy Collins; Richard Cook; Greg Foote; Doug Martin; Marie Miller; Bob Reed; Pam Scarberry; and Richard White.

Also remember in your prayers Maggie Yoder and daughters, Nancy and Amy and their families at the death of Paul Yoder as well as Dorothy Sullivan and Mike and Kathleen and families at the death of Ed Sullivan. Paul and Ed both died this past month. Blessed be their memories.

An Invitation from Central's Prayer Ministry Team

Submit a prayer request!

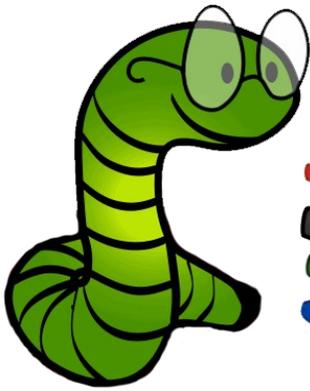
If you would like to submit a prayer request, you can do so by sending an email directly to prayers@welcometocentral.org. Please tell us your name and the reason for your request. If you are asking on behalf of someone other than yourself, please seek their permission first. Prayers can be for thanksgiving, health, struggles, guidance, support, or anything else you desire. Central's Prayer Advocates are committed to keeping your prayer concerns and thanksgivings in our daily prayers.



Walking and Praying Together!

In addition, if you would like to join friends from Central in a prayer walk, Ruth Vettrus has started a walking & praying group that meets in the Church parking lot on Thursdays from 4-5pm to pray while walking around the neighborhood. Contact Ruth for more information at Ruth.Vettrus@gmail.com.

News from Central's Book Club



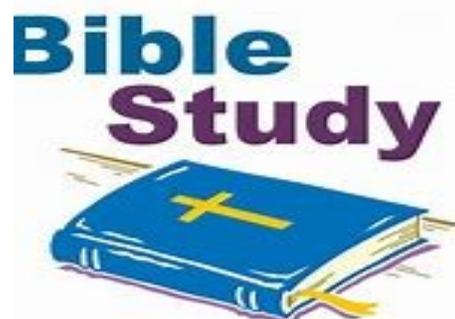
The CLC Book Club will meet on **Monday, January 11, 2021, at 7:00pm** via Zoom to discuss ***The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead**. The 2020 Pulitzer Prize judges called this winning novel "a spare and devastating exploration of abuse at a reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida that is ultimately a powerful tale of human perseverance, dignity and redemption." It was based on the real story of the Dozier School

in Florida that operated for 111 years and had its history exposed by a university's investigation. Colson Whitehead dramatizes this strand of American history through the story of two boys unjustly sentenced to a hellish reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida. When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades. (credit: *Entertainment Weekly* & *Amazon.com* review). The discussion will be led by Sally Diehm.

The ZOOM link will be sent out closer to the meeting date. New members are always welcome! If you are not on the CLC Book Club email list and would like to join the discussion, please email Betsy Berg rb24berg@aol.com.

Looking Ahead: **The CLC Book Club** will meet on **Monday, Feb. 8, 2021, at 7:00pm** via Zoom to discuss ***All You Can Ever Know: A Memoir*** by Nicole Chung. The discussion will be led by Kathleen Heinz.

Pastor's Wednesday Bible Study via Zoom resumes on January 6, 2021 at 11am. No preparation needed. If you'd like to join us as we study the upcoming Sunday lectionary texts, simply email pastorlaurie@welcometocentral.org to receive the link directly to your inbox.



I am very excited to be coming to serve you as a vicar in the coming weeks! My family and I are looking forward to being part of the Central Lutheran family in fellowship and service.

I am in the process of becoming ordained through Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary's TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) program. I have a BA in Theology at Concordia University-Portland, an M.A. in Comparative Religion at University of Washington, and I am in the process of completing my Ph.D. in Biblical Studies at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis (currently finishing my doctoral dissertation on Paul's ethnic identity discourse in Galatians). Professionally, I was a Professor of Theology at Concordia University-Portland where I served as an adjunct for 7 years and full time for 1 year until Concordia's untimely closure in Spring 2020. I love all things related to education, critical thinking, exploration of our own assumptions, and get very excited when we discuss topics at all levels.

One of the things I have learned being a teacher of undergraduates is to be open to new ideas and thinking differently and creatively. In this time of COVID, our ministries and mission need to be considered creatively to find ways of connecting with each other when it seems so challenging. It seems our social distancing has done more to show us how important our fellowship is with each other – precisely because it is so hard to do right now and how much we all miss it. Because of my circuitous route to parish ministry, I have some experience being a layperson in a church and have a real passion for empowering laity at various levels, especially when congregants have passion and ideas they want to share with others.

My wife Holly and my daughter Iris (19 months) are also excited to be coming to Eugene for the next chapter in our life. Holly is currently working on her Master's in Library and Information Science online through San Jose State as well as spending most of her days trying to keep up with Iris. Iris's main passions at present are in climbing and learning to talk.

We are excited to be part of this new church family.

In Christ's love,
Ben Nickodemus



An Important Message from your Church Council To: Members of Central—Mark your Calendars

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday January 31, 2021 at noon via Zoom. Due to Covid restrictions our semi-annual meeting in June 2020 did not take place. Therefore it is extremely important that we convene the semi-annual meeting in January 2021. We will receive a year-end Financial report for 2020 from our Church Treasurer, Charlotte Bontrager and vote on Central's Mission and Ministry Budget for 2021. In addition we will be hearing a few remarks from Council President Dennis Lindsay and Pastor Laurie. There will also be an opportunity for us to hear from our pastoral intern, Vicar Ben.

Limited seating in the Parish Hall will be available for those who wish to attend in person (following OHA guidelines) and the Zoom meeting will be shown on the big screen to maximize participation. Please watch for the Zoom link closer to the actual date.

Finally, all written reports from Ministry Teams, Committees, and Boards should be submitted to Kristi in the church office no later than January 19th for inclusion in the Annual Report. If you're reading this online you can send your report via email by clicking [here](#).

Update on Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Chocolates

All of your favorite Fair Trade products are still available or can be special ordered for you. To place an order and arrange for pickup or delivery, email Tonya Cockram [here](#) or call Keri or Tonya at 541-654-4656.

Help Needed — Can we count on you?

Each week a meal is prepared and delivered to the First Place Families living at the Annex. The food is picked up from the Eugene Mission on Fridays. Members of Central take turns preparing the meal in the kitchen at church or in their own homes over the weekend. The home-cooked meal is then delivered to the Annex on Monday afternoons for their evening meal. If you'd like to find out how you can help with one or more of these tasks call (541-914-8442) or email Kim Meyers by clicking [here](#).

Central Lutheran Church

Jan-Nov 2020 Compared to Jan-Nov 2019 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2019	Difference
Regular Envelopes	\$ 485,513.81	\$ 504,537.61	\$ (19,023.80)
Other Offerings	\$ 2,788.90	\$ 6,982.79	\$ (4,193.89)
Holiday Offerings	\$ 4,303.00	\$ 7,520.80	\$ (3,217.80)
Other Income	\$ 27,754.49	\$ 59,184.93	\$ (31,430.44)
Departmental Income	\$ 52,319.54	\$ 90,022.07	\$ (37,702.53)
Total Income	\$ 572,679.74	\$ 668,248.20	\$ (95,568.46)
Total Expenses	\$ 619,272.47	\$ 689,452.84	\$ (70,180.37)
YTD Net Income	\$ (46,592.73)	\$ (21,204.64)	\$ (25,388.09)



Address change

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