

THE CENTRALITE

September 2021



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN
CHRIST CONGREGATION

Central's Staff

Pastor Laurie A. Jones
pastorlaurie@
welcometocentral.org
(206-354-6756)

Vicar Ben Nickodemus
Pastoral Intern

Minister to Christus House &
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, Larry Sutton
Vice Pres, Sheri Pyron
Secretary, Jack Bennett
Treas, Charlotte Bontrager
Jean Clancey
Matt Haugen
Chris Henry
Jill Liedtke
Dennis Lindsay
Sonia Macke

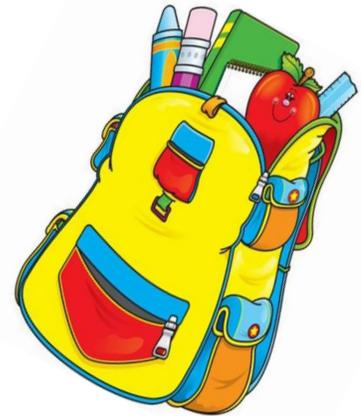
CENTRAL LUTHERAN MISSION STATEMENT
TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS BY:

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

PARKING LOT BLESSINGS AT CENTRAL

**Back to School Blessing
September 12, 2021 at 1pm**

Bring your backpacks, laptops, chrome books, iPads, etc. and join us in the Church Parking Lot as we offer a prayer of blessing and cheer on our Children & Youth and all of our Teachers, School Administrators, and Support Staff at the start of a new school year!



*Blessing
of
the
Animals*



**Sunday,
October 3rd**

**(stay tuned: details
coming soon)**

Dear Friends,

I imagine many of us are growing weary of hearing the bleak news we're being bombarded with these days, especially in light of the rise in hospitalizations and the spread of the coronavirus attributed to the delta variant. It's hard not to get discouraged. If that rings true for you, I encourage you to read Psalm 121. Notice in the first two verses the psalmist asks and answers his own question: *"I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."* Notice also that by the end (v. 8) the psalmist provides an assurance of God's protection: *"The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore."* Pause on that last word—**FOREVERMORE**.

None of us really knows what our future holds. Or, do we? I encourage all of us who walk as yet by faith to trust in the promises of God. The scriptures are filled with reminders that God is with us and for us... that God will never abandon nor forsake us... that nothing will ever be able to separate us from God's love. And so we continue the walk of faith. Sometimes it may feel like we're on a roller coaster with twists and turns that make our stomachs churn. Yet we press on. Sometimes it may feel like we're caught in a tornado and everything is spinning out of control with no end in sight. Yet we press on. Sometimes we feel: Discouraged... Frustrated... Angry... Overwhelmed. Yet we press on. We press on trusting that God's hand is leading and guiding us each and every step of the way—**FOREVERMORE**.

As we move from summer to fall, our plans for resuming many of our program year fellowship events and activities are being put on hold for a little while longer. And maybe that's okay, at least for now. We won't be kicking off Together Tuesdays in September with a community meal, children's choir, music together, youth and adult education opportunities. Nor will Chorale and handbell rehearsals resume as we had hoped.

However, we will continue to focus on providing opportunities to gather for worship to praise our God: in-person, via live-stream, and on Zoom. Using the hybrid model we've become accustomed to these recent months, we will continue to: gather for bible study, lift up one another in prayer, and provide service opportunities. And we will continue to provide administrative oversight and steward the resources that God has entrusted to this congregation just as we have been doing. I encourage you to continue to look for ways to connect, in ways that feel safe for you and for your household, and most of all to trust that you are loved—**FOREVERMORE**.

In Christ's Abiding Love,
Pastor Laurie

“Religion that is pure and undefined before God, the Father, is this:
to care for orphans and widows in their distress.” James 1:27a

Dear Friends,

The word in James that is translated as “religion” is the Greek word *threskeia* and is actually better translated as “worship.” James is saying that what makes pure worship is not just what we do in the sanctuary, but also caring for those who are in need. Here it lists orphans and widows in their distress, but really, it is all those who are in distress – the sick, the needy, those in grief, those in pain.

This past summer I served as a chaplain-intern at Riverbend hospital. I spent my time visiting people in sickness and grief. I had the privilege of meeting with over 200 patients and their families at the hospital from all different walks of life, some of whom had never talked to anyone from a religious perspective at all. My role was to provide emotional and spiritual care to patients. I heard from patients and families what was deep on their heart. Nearly everyone comes into the hospital for something physical, but what is opened up in their life are the emotional struggles and challenges of their lives as well as the joys, hopes, and meanings. Those needs varied widely from strained relationships with family, feeling isolated and abandoned, feeling responsible for their larger family, unsure if they could really have hope, unsure if their faith was really going to hold out, searching for some larger meaning as well as the joys of family and support, the meaning that is in their life, and the value of our identity and telling our stories.

The one thing I didn’t have much of in the hospital was frivolous conversation. I didn’t hear much about sports or politics, because in the hospital, people were ready to talk about real life. The care they needed was to simply recognize what was on their heart and being able to express it. When they did that, that space was holy. Our time together was, as in James’ quote above, worshipful. It wasn’t always the entire visit, but there would be moments where the patient and I were really connecting in a deep way. I had the privilege to witness people move from denial of their situation to acceptance, from doubt to faith, from hopelessness to hope. Of course, as a chaplain, I wasn’t the one who did that for them – *they* were the ones who found that meaning and hope. I was there to accompany them on their journey. Had I not been there, that spiritual journey probably would not have taken place, but it was their interaction with the divine in those spaces that was what made it worshipful. It was a joy to be present in that space.

I want to thank all of you, members of Central, for allowing me the time to be away at the hospital these past three months. Being present at the hospital full time provided me the space to be truly present there. Second, I want to thank you all members of the Central Foundation which generously funded my time being there, paying my salary so that I could be serving our community of Eugene/Springfield. I reached out to a tremendous number of people that never would have set foot in our church doors. This was the mission of the entire church together.

In Christ’s love,

Vicar Ben

Save the Date for a Quilter's Coffee & Chat Reunion

Thursday, September 9
10:30am

Central Lutheran
Terrace Room



Like more information? Call Ellen
541-746-7651 Need a ride?
Call Kristi 541-345-0395



18th Annual EMPTY BOWLS AUCTION September 9, 2021

FFLC goes to the drive-in. You are invited to veg at home for a groovy time! Gather your friends for a night of disco and tie dye! We'll have a groovy time reducing hunger for our neighbors in need. Join us from home! VIRTUAL EVENT BEGINS AT 5:30PM • Groove to Shelley James Music Box live stream • Live and silent auctions with online bidding • Optional gourmet goody boxes for 2 people \$150 (Goody boxes must be purchased by Wednesday, September 1st) • General admission: Free. Register online: www.foodforlanecounty.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EDITH MAYERS SHELDON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021



During worship on August 8th, the Central Lutheran Foundation was pleased to award Edith Mayers a \$1000 scholarship. She was also presented with a hand-crafted quilt made by Central's Quilters. Edie is the daughter of Josie Van Scholten & Scott Mayers and the granddaughter of Judy & John Van Scholten. Edie will soon begin her studies at Syracuse University in New York.

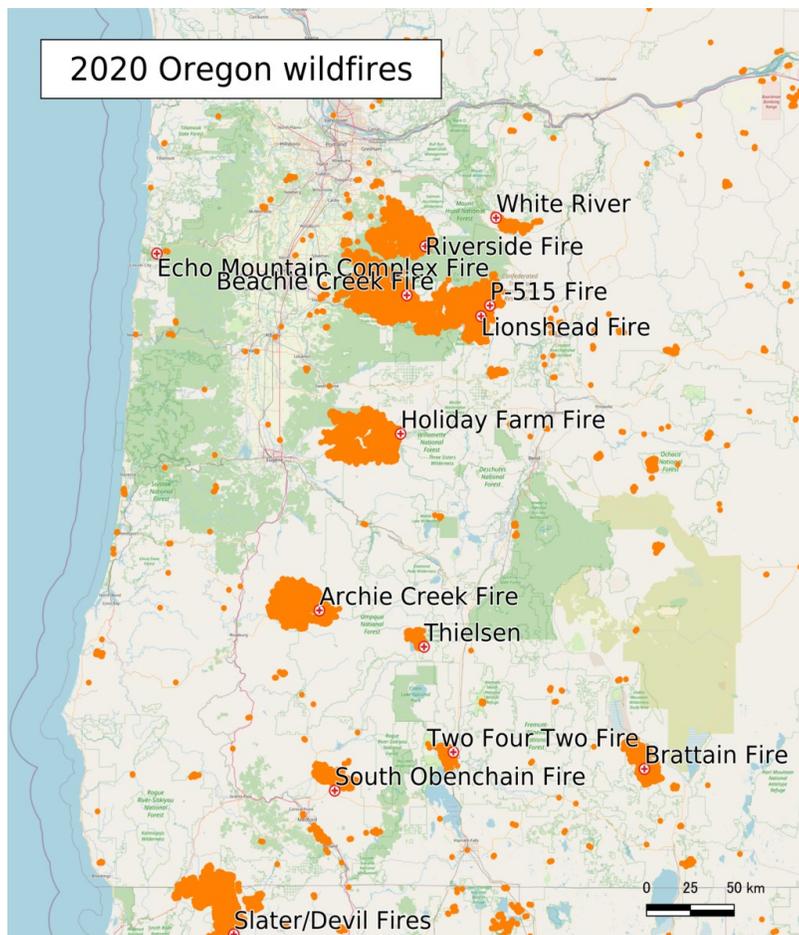
Pictured with Edie are her parents and her brother, Liam.

PRIDE IN THE PARK

On August 14, Central Lutheran Church returned to Eugene's annual Pride in the Park, this year joined by United and Emmaus, to host a booth in solidarity and celebration. Central, United, and Emmaus are Eugene's three Reconciling in Christ communities, advocating for "the acceptance, full participation, and liberation of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions" in our congregations. With pastoral staff and lay volunteers from all three congregations covering the 7-hour day, we shared information about our churches while distributing rainbow masks, temporary tattoos, stickers affirming God's boundless love, and bubbles for kids of all ages. The collaboration was a lot of fun - participants are all set to do it all again next year!



Mid-week Worship Opportunity via Zoom
Wednesday, Sept 22nd at 12:30pm
God in the midst of destruction: wildfires & natural disasters



In September of 2020, Oregon suffered the worst fire season in its recorded history. It burned more than a million acres, thousands of homes, and at least 11 people lost their lives. At one point, the largest fires in the state were burning three acres per second. Thousands were evacuated and many lost their homes. The destruction of to the state's forests were significant. This year, with the dryness of the Spring, many new fires have started. Fires near Medford, for example, are burning aggressively. While not nearly as bad as it was in Fall 2020, there is tremendous anxiety knowing that the Fall winds are coming and we are unsure what will happen. There is further anxiety that this

could become the "new normal" and that every year we could face this same challenge. Central is thereby dedicating a worship service of lament, hope, and healing from wildfires and natural disasters on Wednesday, September 22 at 12:30pm. Available on Zoom, this will be a time set apart to express to God our grief of what was lost a year ago, our concern about the conditions right now, and our anxieties about what this means for our future. For any questions, contact Vicar Ben by phone 541-345-0395 or email. (vicarben@welcometocentral.org).

Image: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_Oregon_wildfires#/media/File:2020_Oregon_wildfires.png

Designated gifts may be given to Central Lutheran Church earmarked for Lutheran Disaster Response. Or, you can give online at [Lutheran Disaster Response - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](https://www.lutheran-disaster-response.org/).



BOOK CLUB RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER

The CLC Book Club will meet using a **Hybrid Model*** on **Monday, Sept. 13, 2021, at 7pm** to discuss ***The Mabamba Return: A Historical Novel***

by John B. Franz. This book offers not only an historical perspective of Hal Schroeder growing up as a missionary kid in the Congo in the 1960s, but the later challenges of his PTSD from being in the middle of a messy Congolese rebellion and seeing death up close, to his questioning of his Christian faith, and most remarkably the psychological impact on an American growing up in a third world culture which makes him a Third Culture Kid (TCK).

Author John Franz, a classmate of Arlene Dietz at North Eugene HS, has his PhD in sociology and psychology and currently lives in Clovis, CA. He lived four years in the Congo during the 1960s where, among other things, he taught American dependents, managed a dorm for missionary children, and learned to speak Lingala. He has researched the Third Culture Kid extensively. The book is fast moving and fascinating. The discussion will be led by Arlene Dietz.

***NOTE:** As CLC anticipates resuming activities in-person this September, the Book Club has decided to meet using a **Hybrid Model. Following CLC COVID pandemic protocol, we will hold meetings both in-person in the church Library and via ZOOM simultaneously.** The ZOOM link will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

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). New members are always welcome!

Looking Ahead: **The CLC Book Club** will meet on **Monday, Oct. 11, 2021, at 7pm** to discuss ***Trouble with Goats and Sheep*** by Joanna Cannon. The discussion will be led by Jane Powell.

Growing and Giving

A huge thank you to Central members and Christus House students who have supported the work of our Central Lutheran Garden this spring and summer! The heat waves were brutal, but much of our produce has held strong: berries, peas, beans, squash, rhubarb, greens, herbs, and more have been harvested for local students. We pray that this food may nourish their bodies and be symbols of our ongoing love for and commitment to our food-insecure neighbors.

Help Needed Providing Meal for First Place Families

Each week a meal is prepared and delivered to the First Place Families living at the Annex on Amazon Parkway. 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, please call (541-914-8442) or email Kim Meyers [here](#).

What Can We Do to Support Afghan Refugee Resettlement?

Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services (LIRS) has a page fully dedicated to this question, inclusive of direction for each facet of their ADAPT model (**Act, Donate, Advocate, Pray, Teach**): [Help Our Afghan Allies | LIRS](#)

Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) is working to resettle Afghan refugees in the greater Seattle area. LCSNW offers resettlement services, counseling, torture treatment, housing navigation, clothing, food, furniture and more. They welcome your donations to support this important work!

SAVE THE DATE FOR CAMP LUTHERWOOD'S

SPIRIT OF HARVEST FESTIVAL | OCTOBER 6TH

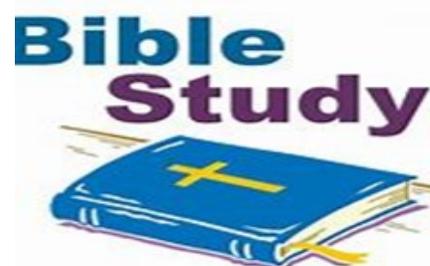
Join us on Wednesday, October 6 at 7pm for a fun and interactive online livestream program uplifting the Spirit of Harvest that lives year-round at Camp Lutherwood Oregon! *Registration opens soon. Stay tuned for more information about the event and how you can enjoy and participate in the evening.*



WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Lue Berg, Terry Chap, Nicole Christie, Linnea Embleton, Jolynn Fabiano, Dal Haverland, Ilona Johnson, Keith Jurasevich, Joy Lathrop, Doug and Jody Martin, Shirley Watson. The family and friends of Ray Jensen and Dan Chamness upon their deaths.

Pastor's Bible Study via Zoom Wednesdays at 11am. No preparation needed. If you'd like to join Pastor Laurie as we study the readings for the upcoming Sunday. Click [here](#) for the Zoom link.



Note the time change:
Men's Bible Study is now meeting in person in the Library on Wednesdays at 7am.

WOMEN'S PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY SET TO RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

Central Women's Prayer and Bible Study will begin weekly meetings on September 9, 2021 in the CLCW Room (across from kitchen). The consensus is to gather each Thursday at 11am. We will be using the Bible study guides found in the ELCA's **Gather Magazine**. It helps to have your own personal copy, however you can share with another participant if you do not have the magazine. You are encouraged to order a subscription (1 year/10 issues \$19.95) by calling 844-409-0576 or by mailing:

Gather Subscription Order Center
PO Box 336
Congers, NY 10920-0336

Please note: Even if you cannot make every meeting, by ordering the Gather magazine you will have the readings and can stay current. For more information contact Arlene Dietz at dietzal@aol.com.

Central Lutheran Church

Jan-July 2021 Compared to Jan-July 2020 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-July 2021	Jan-July 2020	Difference
Regular Envelopes	\$ 323,166.31	\$ 318,334.06	\$ 4,832.25
Other Offerings	497.10	\$ 1,914.90	\$ (1,417.80)
Holiday Offerings	5,590.00	\$ 4,253.00	\$ 1,337.00
Other Income	15,340.06	\$ 17,922.64	\$ (2,582.58)
Departmental Income	56,049.38	\$ 37,962.77	\$ 18,086.61
Total Income	\$ 400,642.85	\$ 380,387.37	\$ 20,255.48
Total Expenses	\$ 444,533.32	\$ 399,329.79	\$ 45,203.53
YTD Net Income	\$ (43,890.47)	\$ (18,942.42)	\$ (24,948.05)
Prorated carryover- Previous Year	\$ 35,778.16	\$ 7,711.66	\$ 28,066.50
Net after carryover	\$ (8,112.31)	\$ (11,230.76)	\$ 3,118.45

[Summer Opportunities for Worship](#)

9am Worship with us in-person in the Sanctuary

pre-registration (connecttocentral.org) is still highly encouraged and masks are required

9am Worship with us from your home via livestream at connecttocentral.org

(also available as a podcast for later viewing)

11am Worship with us in the Garden (through Sept 19th)

located at 2345 Laura Street in Springfield with parking available across the street at Oregon Neurology. Masks are now required.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1857 POTTER STREET EUGENE 97403

541-345-0395 ~ 541-345-2499(FAX)

WEBSITE: WWW.WELCOMETOCENTRAL.ORG

OR WWW.CONNECTTOCENTRAL.ORG