

# THE CENTRALITE

December 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  
Deacon 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

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*

## Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule at Central

All services are open to in-person attendance (masks required for age 2 and older); services denoted with an asterisk (\*) will also be live-streamed.

### Advent Worship and Holy Communion

Sundays at 8:30am\* & 11am (Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, & 19)

### Holden Evening Prayer

Tuesdays at 7pm (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, & Dec. 14)

### Advent Mid-week Worship w/Communion

Wednesdays at 12:30pm (Dec. 1, Dec. 8, & Dec. 15)

**Advent Lessons & Carols** on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 4:30pm\*

**Blue Christmas Service** on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 7pm

**Christmas Eve Manger Service at 4:30pm\***

**Christmas Eve Festival Worship at 9:30pm\***

The worship service on The Second Day of Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 26 and The Ninth Day of Christmas, Sunday, Jan. 2 will be at 10am\* (please note the time change and only one service). More details can be found on the pages that follow or on the church's website:



Dear Fellow God-lovers,

As Vicar Ben stated at the start of his sermon on the First Sunday of Advent, let me also say to you: "Happy New Year!" He wasn't jumping ahead to the end of the calendar year in order to prematurely usher in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-two—that will come soon enough, thank you very much—rather he was reminding us that in liturgical churches like ours, Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. Thus, as of Sunday, November 28, 2021 we have begun a new year, and this year is the year of Luke.

The gospel-writer of Luke/Acts begins with an introduction addressed to Theophilus (which in Greek literally means "lover of God"). Many biblical scholars think Theophilus was a high ranking Roman official. Others think it could be a literary ploy intended to address any reader who loves God. Personally, I like to think of it more as the latter, a letter addressed to all future God-lovers, people like you and me who have come to believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Anointed and Holy One of God most high, who entered into human history at a particular point in time and a specific place for a definitive God-ordained purpose: to save, redeem and reconcile all of creation, and yet who transcends all times and all places because of who and whose he is—Jesus, the Christ, the son of God.

All this is to say that as readers and hearers of the Gospel—the Good News—and as lovers of God in this time and in this place, we are being drawn into this story. It is our story. And it is a story meant to be shared with others through our own lives of faithful living and generous giving. As the baptized people of God, we are called into a new way of living, breathing and being at one with God and with one another.

And so, my hope and prayer is simply: may this new year be one filled with peace on earth and good will to all. And furthermore, may it be one where all that we are and all that we do be to the glory of God! Happy New Year, dear Theophilus, one and all!

In Christ's Abiding Love,

+Pastor Laurie

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13*

Dear fellow members of the household of God,

As we enter into the season of Advent, looking forward to the season of Christmas, we will be focusing on Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon services around the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. These themes are one of the thematic schemes frequently used for the different candles in the Advent wreath. These four themes could be said to sum up our emotions and feelings in Advent – or at least, the feelings we have during the best of times. They can be the kind of emotions that spring up as we gather near our family and ones closest to us, and contemplate who Christ is in our lives. In those moments, feelings of hope, peace, joy, and love bubble up and can act as a warming balm during these cold months.

We should recognize, however, that Advent can also be a time of pain and grief. Every time we gather together we recognize who is not present. Sometimes people are not present because they are simply geographically distanced and with the effects of COVID continuing to restrict our world, they cannot be present. Harder, though, are those members of our family and closest ones who have passed on into glory. The holidays can bring alive within us those who have passed away recently and those who have passed away long ago – it all can stir for us in those times. That does not negate the hope, peace, joy, and love in this season. More often than not, we have a mixture of emotions. We feel both grief and hope; both pain and peace; both sadness and joy; both woundedness and love.

When Paul writes Romans, he uses all of our terms with the verse above including three of them in one place. He is writing these words, though, to a divided community. The verse above is the final verse of the body of the letter. He has spent 15 chapters trying to bring that community together. It was a crisis of leadership and inclusion – as the fault lines between the Jewish and Gentile members of the church in Rome were widening and the community was becoming polarized. In fact, Romans 14-15 was his final appeal that the "strong" among you be accommodating and welcoming to the "weak." The terms "strong" and "weak" are being used sarcastically by Paul – the people were neither strong nor weak, but they thought of themselves as the "strong" and those on the other side as the "weak." The terms hope, peace, and joy that Paul uses here were not just emotions that were naturally bubbling up for the community. It was a wounded community that could find their hope, peace, and joy in Christ. Through the division and the conflict was their grounding in the one Lord Jesus Christ who could bring together a community. To have that kind of community was one filled with grief and pain as well as hope, peace, and joy.

What Paul encourages us to see is that there can be hope, peace, joy, and love in Christ – even when we feel grief and pain. It does not mean that we override our real feelings of hurt to pretend they do not hurt any longer, but that we also see the hope, peace, joy, and love that live alongside them. We can do so because in those places of pain there is Christ – as John says, the light in the darkness.

In Christ's love,  
Vicar Ben



## Blue Christmas Service Tuesday, December 21 at 7pm In the Sanctuary

Sometimes called "Longest Night" services, Blue Christmas services are offered across the country on or near the winter solstice. These are quiet, contemplative services designed to offer solace and space for those who struggle through this season. Society at large insists on good cheer during a season in which many are vulnerable for a variety of reasons—prolonged darkness and cold, grief or loss, loneliness and isolation, and more.

While this service includes traditional Advent and Christmas hymns and some traditional texts, participants will also find space for prayer and remembrances, petitions for comfort and peace, silence and the lighting of candles.

All who seek a gentle, inviting holy space this season are welcome to this service.



### Address changes

Susie Anderson  
5020 Kelvin Apt #1813; Houston TX 77005

Bettina Norden  
91565 Donna Rd; Springfield OR 97478

Connie Rattenborg  
3813 Richland St; Springfield OR 97478

Kaye Barr & Sarai Hudson  
98062 Prince St; Brookings OR 97415

## Looking for Christmas gifts this year?

[Shop ELCA Good Gifts](#) and choose from more than 50 unique, charitable gifts to give in honor of friends and family. They'll get a card to let them know about what you've done, and you'll get the joy that comes with making the world a better place.



### Chicks (with "Merry Chick-mas" card)

Help a family spread their wings. When chicks grow up to become chickens, their eggs not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals — they can also help start a small business and generate a steady source of income.



### Fruit-tree seedling (with "O Citrus Tree" card)

Special varieties of fruit trees are known to thrive in the driest of conditions. **These low-maintenance trees are an investment in the community that can span generations**, protecting the soil from erosion and providing nutritious fruit to children and adults alike.



### Honeybees (with "Bee-ginning to Look Like Christmas" card)

Support farmers and healthy honeybee colonies with this **buzz-worthy gift**. Honeybees provide honey to eat, beeswax that allows a farmer to start a small business selling their products, and a boost to crop growth by pollinating plants everywhere they go.



### Piglet (with "Go Tail it on the Mountain" card)

This little piggy couldn't be a bigger lifesaver. This gift is a source of natural fertilizer that helps crops grow tall and strong, and can also be sold at the market for extra income when it's needed.



Send your child/ren or grandchild/ren to summer camp! A gift certificate to camp makes a great stocking stuffer. Or, support camperships for those in need: [Donate to Camp Lutherwood!](#)



[Email the Church Office](#) to purchase Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and chocolates, which make wonderful gifts to friends, family, and coworkers!



## BOOK CLUB NEWS

**The CLC Book Club** will meet **via ZOOM** on **Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, at 7:00pm** to discuss ***Square Haunting*** by Francesca Wade. *Square Haunting* isn't about haunting, although it is about a square: Mecklenburgh Square, in the Bloomsbury district of London. It takes place between World Wars I & II, when Bloomsbury was a shabby but hip hangout of intellectuals and revolutionaries of all kinds. This nonfiction book tells the stories of five women writers who "lived in squares, painted in circles, and loved in triangles." H.D. (Hilda Doolittle) was a rather troubled young would-be poet and novelist. Dorothy L Sayers went on to great success with her Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries. Jane Harrison was a classicist, Eileen Power an economic historian, and Virginia Woolf an author and publisher. The book reads like a novel, and each of these women was a pioneer in women's literature and women's freedom. The discussion will be led by Meg Hicks.



**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](mailto:rb24berg@aol.com)).

Looking Ahead: **The CLC Book Club** will meet on **Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, at 7:00pm** to discuss ***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak. The discussion will be led by Terie Gillis.



## Youth and Family Events

All youth and kids are invited to a Christmas party on Saturday, December 4th from 10am-3pm. This is a joint CUE event and will be held at Central Lutheran. Our time together will include Christmas crafts and exploration of the Christmas story, and some fun treats! All are welcome and if you are an adult that enjoys crafting or storytelling and would like to help make this event happen, please

Contact Crystal. If your family will be joining us for the party, please let Crystal know ([crystal@unitedlutheran.org](mailto:crystal@unitedlutheran.org)) so that we can plan our numbers.

I wanted to take a moment and thank all who support our Synod and broader church. I had the great privilege to escort two of our youth, Eva (United Lutheran) and Honora (Central Lutheran) to the annual ELCA Youth Summit in Minneapolis this past month. It was a wonderful and empowering experience for all the youth who attended and because it was fully funded by a grant through the Synods and the ELCA it was an experience accessible to youth of all backgrounds.

In upcoming events all Middle and High School youth are invited to join us for a snow trip during President's Day weekend, February 18-21. Our trip will be filled with snow time fun, skiing, snowman building, snowball fights, and so much more, as well as some time for faith reflection. Please mark this on your calendar and let Crystal know if you will be coming on the trip.



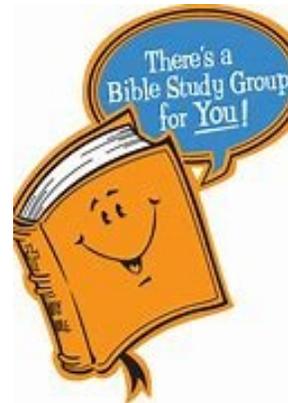
## WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Lue Berg, Terry Chap, Carolyn & Bob Evans, Linnea Embleton, Arline Fors, Ilona Johnson, Keith Jurasevich, Joy Lathrop, Doug and Jody Martin, Shirley Watson, Genevieve Youngquist; and those who mourn, especially the family and friends of Helen Knebel who died on Nov. 29 (services pending).

Click [here](#) to submit a prayer request.  
Or, email: [prayers@welcometocentral.org](mailto:prayers@welcometocentral.org).

## NURTURE FAITHFUL LIVING

...by diving into the word of God  
with a few of your friends from Central



## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study meets weekly in person on **Wednesdays at 7am** at the Pancake House on Franklin Blvd. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact Chuck Dietz at [cdietz41@gmail.com](mailto:cdietz41@gmail.com).

## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join Pastor and Vicar Ben on **Wednesdays at 11am** via Zoom as we study the readings for the upcoming Sunday. No preparation needed. Click [here](#) for the Zoom link.

## WOMEN'S PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Prayer and Bible Study meets weekly on **Thursdays at 11am** via Zoom using the Bible study guides found in the ELCA's *Gather Magazine*. For more information and to receive the Zoom link to your inbox please contact Arlene Dietz at [dietzal@aol.com](mailto:dietzal@aol.com).

**Central Lutheran Church**  
**Jan-Oct 2021 Compared to Jan-Oct 2020 Income:Expense Summary**

	Jan-Oct 2021	Jan-Oct 2020	Difference
Regular Envelopes	\$ 432,183.81	\$ 446,921.81	\$ (14,738.00)
Other Offerings	953.10	\$ 2,690.90	\$ (1,737.80)
Holiday Offerings	5,590.00	\$ 4,253.00	\$ 1,337.00
Other Income*	92,307.16	\$ 25,329.27	\$ 66,977.89
Departmental Income	72,222.26	\$ 47,470.00	\$ 24,752.26
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 603,256.33</b>	<b>\$ 526,664.98</b>	<b>\$ 76,591.35</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 633,914.61</b>	<b>\$ 562,589.76</b>	<b>\$ 71,324.85</b>
<b>YTD Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (30,658.28)</b>	<b>\$ (35,924.78)</b>	<b>\$ 5,266.50</b>
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 51,111.67	\$ 11,016.67	\$ 40,095.00
<b>Net after carryover applied</b>	<b>\$ 20,453.39</b>	<b>\$ (24,908.11)</b>	<b>\$ (4,454.72)</b>

\*Unspecified Bequests received total \$71,552.08, which is shown in Other Income. Bequests such as these cannot be counted on for operating expenses. If we had not received bequests the net after carryover from last year would be (\$ 51,098.69).



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