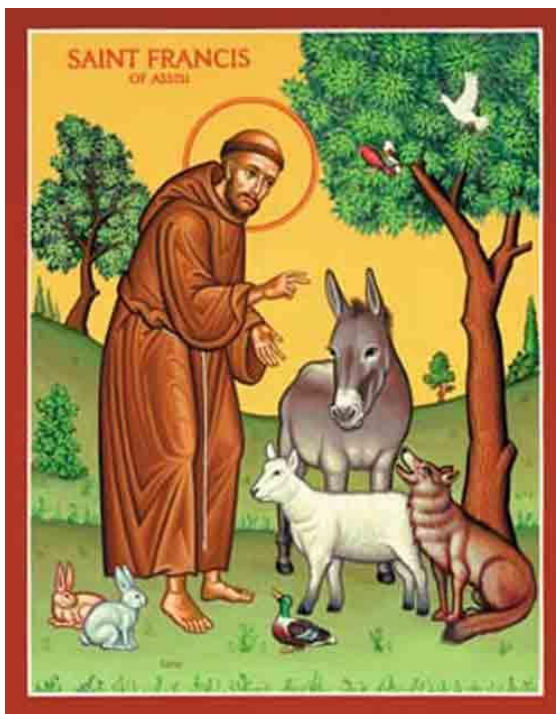


Feast of St. Francis &
Blessing of the Animals
October 4, 2026
8:30am & 11am



Central Lutheran Church
1857 Potter Street
Eugene, Oregon
541-345-0395
www.welcometocentral.org



CENTRAL LUTHERAN'S MISSION



Our mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus by loving God and one another, nurturing faithful living, serving those in need, and sharing the Gospel.

Central Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Oregon Synod, is a Reconciling in Christ community: We affirm that Christ has made us one body with many members, all sharing in God's wondrous grace and unconditional love.

We celebrate both the human variation and inclusive unity of God's family. Following Jesus' example, we embrace all of God's people, regardless of ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, economic circumstance, and we firmly commit to racial equity. With welcoming hearts, we invite you to join us in worship, education, fellowship, and service.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN STAFF

Pastor Laurie A Jones
pastorlaurie@welcometocentral.org
mobile: 206-354-6756

Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook
Organist/Choirmaster
aesc@welcometocentral.org

Vicar Robyn Quiring
Seminarian Intern, United & Central
vicar.robyn@unitedlutheran.org

Kelly Colvin-Smith
Parish Administrator
churchoffice@welcometocentral.org

Joel Timmons, Pastoral Staff
joel@welcometocentral.org
mobile: 503-747-9869

Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers
Assoc. Organist/Children's Music
lindsey.henriksen@gmail.com

Crystal Miller, Children/Youth
Minister for Central/United/Emmaus
crystal@unitedlutheran.org

Cindy Culpepper
Financial Manager
cindy@welcometocentral.org

In commemoration of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, we give thanks to God, the Creator of all good things in heaven and on earth, and under the earth. Using a variety of resources from Roman Catholic, Anglican/Episcopal, and Lutheran liturgies, today we give glory to God for the bounty and beauty of creation and all God's creatures, great and small.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE (8:30) *Sonata I: Allegro* – Matthew Camidge
Arya Saks, piano

(11:00) *Le Coucou (The Cuckoo)* - Louis-Claude Daquin

WELCOME

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF CREATION

Bless the Lord, all you creatures!

And forget not all of God's benefits.

For all your creatures that breathe and move and have life,

We give you thanks and praise, Creator God.

That we may love and honor the works of your hand,

We give you thanks and praise, Creator God.

That all living things may be treasured with care,

We give you thanks and praise, Creator God.

That all life may flourish,

We give you thanks and praise, Creator God.

Everyone is invited to join in today's procession. Following the processional hymn, those who desire to have an animal blessed, are invited to remain at up front at the foot of the chancel steps.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

1 All crea - tures of our God most high, Sound
 2 Great rush - ing wind and breez - es, soft, O
 3 O flow - ing wa - ters, pure and clear, Make
 4 Dear moth - er earth, who day a - by tor, day Un -
 5 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless And

ev - 'ry voice in earth and sky: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 clouds that ride the winds a - loft: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
 mu - sic for your Lord to hear. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
 fold rich bless - ings on our way, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
 wor - ship God in hum - ble - ness. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -

lu - ia! O burn - ing sun with gold - en
 lu - ia! O ris - ing morn, in praise re -
 lu - ia! O fire so mas - ter ful and
 lu - ia! The fruits and flow'rs that ver - dant
 lu - ia! Oh, praise the Fa - ther, praise the

beam And sil - ver of moon with soft - er gleam:
 joice, O lights of eve - ning, find a voice.
 bright, Pro - vid - ing us with warmth and light.
 grow, Let them our praise a - bun - dant show.
 Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One,

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Francis of Asisi, 1182-1226

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

GREETING

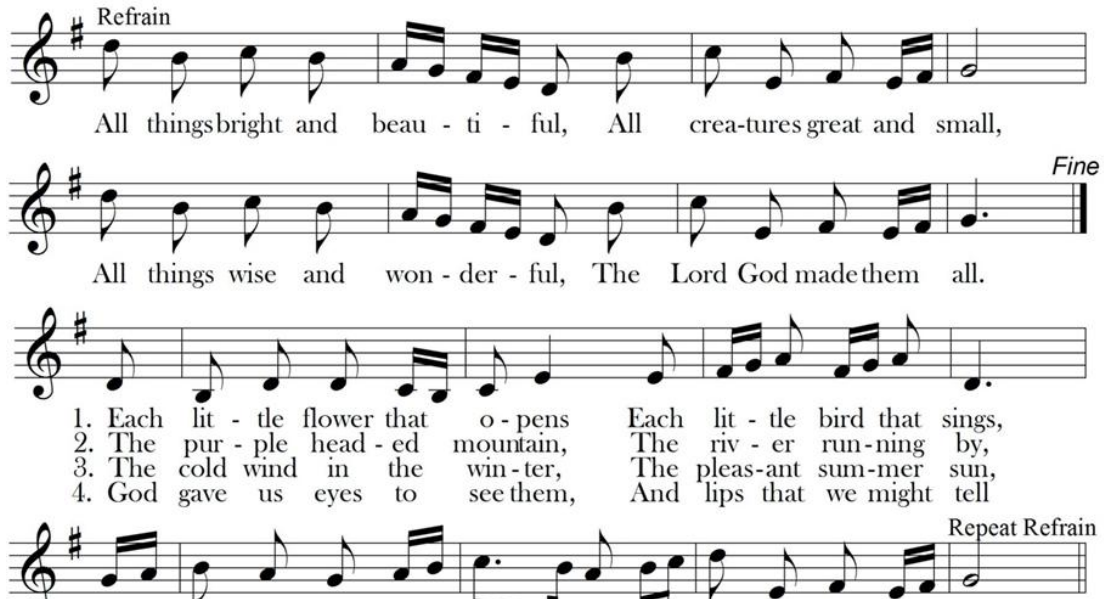
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

BLESSING THE ANIMALS

During the blessing the congregation is invited to sing:

HYMN All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,
All things wise and won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all.

1. Each lit - tle flower that o - pens Each lit - tle bird that sings,
2. The pur - ple head - ed mountain, The riv - er run-ning by,
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
4. God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell

Repeat Refrain

He made their glow - ing col - ors, He made their ti - ny wings.
The sun - set, and the morn - ing That bright-ens up the sky.
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.
How great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Text: Cecil Alexander, 1818-1895, alt.

Music: English tune, 17th cent., adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875-1958

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM (8:30) *Prayer of St. Francis* - Helvey

Chorale

WORD

FIRST READING Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 8



O Lord our Lord, how majestic is
your name in all the earth!

**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths
of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your
enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.

**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:**

all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,
**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

ANTHEM (8:30) *All Things Bright and Beautiful* - Rutter Children's Choir

ANTHEM (11:00) *Hymn of Promise* - Sleeth Cantors

SECOND LESSON Galatians 6:14-18

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen. The Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

During the Gospel Acclamation our children are invited to go to the chapel for a special message. They will return during the sharing of the peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand)*



Cantors: The earth, the creatures, and all living things are given for you, says the Lord. Love them, protect them, and use them wisely. **Repeat antiphon.**

GOSPEL Matthew 11:25-30

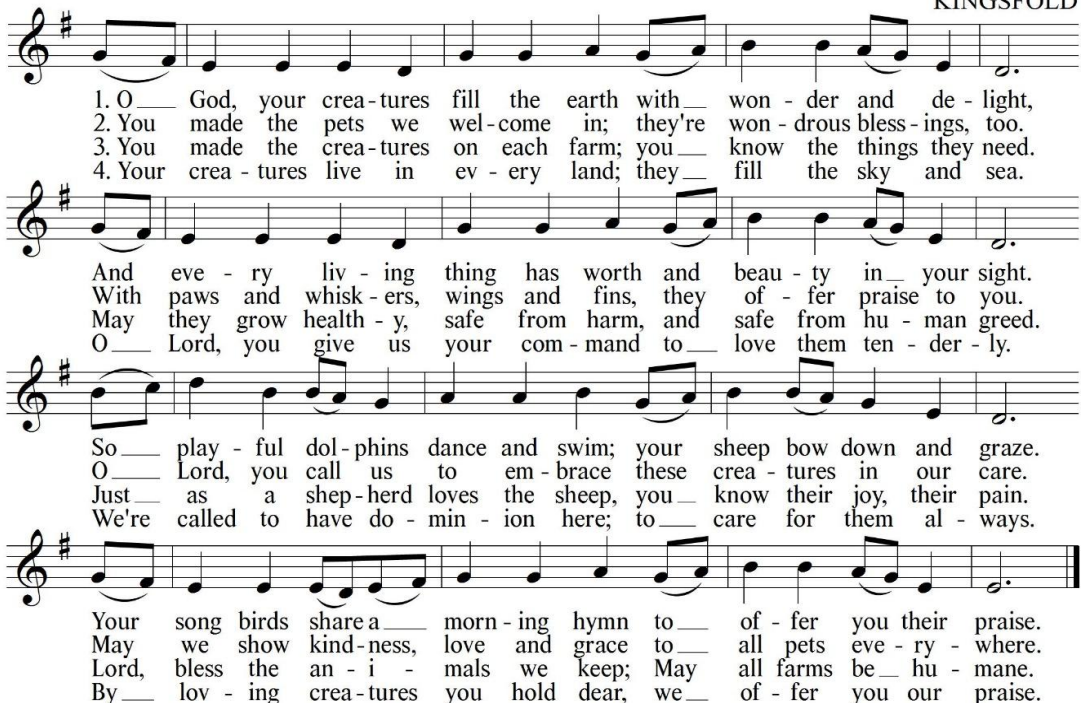
The Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Joel Timmons

HYMN O God Your Creatures Fill the Earth (*please stand*)

KINGSFOLD



1. O — God, your crea - tures fill the earth with — won - der and de - light,
2. You made the pets we wel - come in; they're won - drous bless - ings, too.
3. You made the crea - tures on each farm; you — know the things they need.
4. Your crea - tures live in ev - ery land; they — fill the sky and sea.

And eve - ry liv - ing thing has worth and beau - ty in — your sight.
With paws and whisk - ers, wings and fins, they of - fer praise to you.
May they grow health - y, safe from harm, and safe from hu - man greed.
O — Lord, you give us your com - mand to — love them ten - der - ly.

So — play - ful dol - phins dance and swim; your sheep bow down and graze.
O — Lord, you call us to em - brace these crea - tures in our care.
Just — as a shep - herd loves the sheep, you — know their joy, their pain.
We're called to have do - min - ion here; to — care for them al - ways.

Your song birds share a — morn - ing hymn to — of - fer you their praise.
May we show kind - ness, love and grace to — all pets eve - ry - where.
Lord, bless the an - i - mals we keep; May all farms be — hu - mane.
By — lov - ing crea - tures you hold dear, we — of - fer you our praise.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(please be seated)*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OFFERING

You may place your offering in the plates as you come forward for communion.

OFFERTORY *From Out of the Woods a Cuckoo Did Fly* Cundick

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(please stand)*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

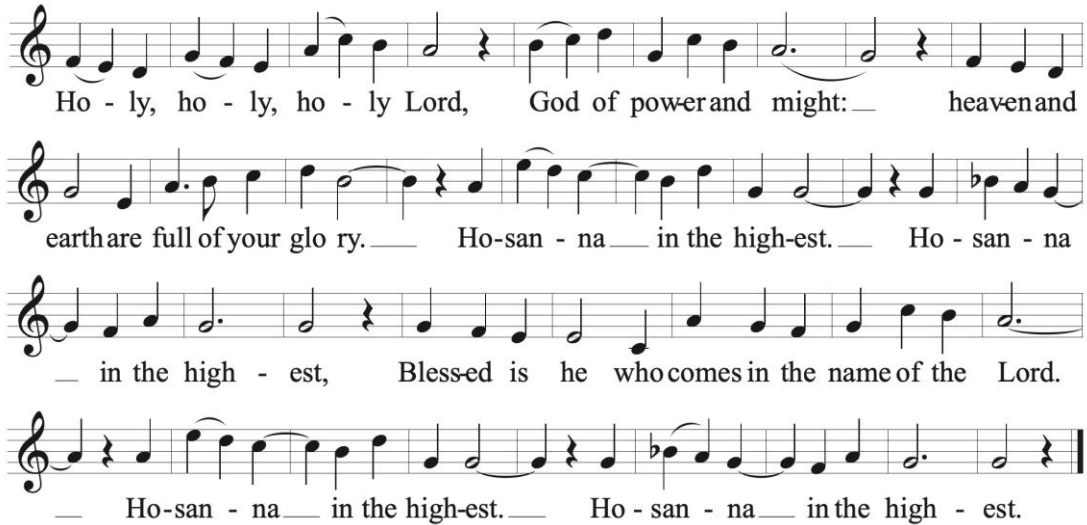
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and all places give our thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior, Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might: — heaven and
earth are full of your glo ry. — Ho-san - na — in the high-est. — Ho - san - na
— in the high - est, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
— Ho-san - na — in the high-est. — Ho - san - na — in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. (*please be seated*)

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS & DISTRIBUTION

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us — peace, grant us peace.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

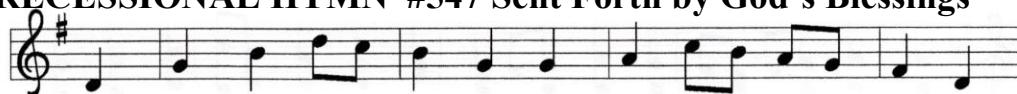
And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SENDING

POST-COMMUNION SENDING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished us in our life together. So now, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our siblings in Christ. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom they bring communion, that through the body and blood of your Son they may know the hope of your promised coming to us in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN #547 Sent Forth by God's Blessings



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - er is end - ed, Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

BENEDICTION

God, Creator of all things, breathing all life into being; Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the world, gathering us into one body; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the Church; bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for the earth and all its creatures. **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Præludium in G*, BuxWV 149 Diderik Buxtehude

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Today's Worship Leaders (8:30)

Crucifer: Alex Hougland

Torch Bearers: Paul Rodgers & Greyson Neckels

Acolytes: Arya Saks & Charlotte Miller

Lector: Brent Moeller

Junior Cantors:

Lukas Henriksen, Henry Koscho, Charlotte Miller, Piper Neubert, Samuel Rodgers, Arya Saks, and Signe Smith

Children's Choir:

Amos Anderson, Louisa Barrett, Eliot Hodgetts, Oliver Miller, Evelyn Neckels, Greyson Neckels, and Paul Rodgers

Today's Worship Leaders (11:00)

Cantors: Daniel Au & Ben Homan

Lector: Julian Jones

Next Sunday, October 11th is Quilt Sunday. Our quilters are having a drawing for the handmade quilt on display in the Sanctuary. To enter the drawing, simply make a donation (of any amount), write your name and phone number on a slip of paper, place it in the globe on the Info Table in the Narthex and you could be the winner! All donations will be used to defray the cost of shipping and to purchase quilting supplies. If writing a check, please put “Quilters” on the memo line. The drawing will take place after worship on the 11th, and the winner will be contacted thereafter.

Campus Ministry News: Sunday Dinner Church, an Outreach to UO, LCC, and Bushnell students kicks off tonight at 5pm. The evening includes a chef-prepared meal, bible study and lively discussions around theological topics and current events and concludes with a brief worship service where we feast on the Lord’s Supper. **Hearth & Table**, also an outreach ministry for college students, resumes on Thursday, October 15th with the meal served from 6:30-7:30pm. This year we are pleased to welcome Elizabeth Bond to the position of Supervising Chef. Chef Liz comes to us with a wealth of experience, including as an adjunct instructor in the Culinary Arts Department at LCC.

Don’t forget... there’s also a meal for members and friends of Central at **Together Tuesdays each week starting at 5:15pm.** The evening includes Music Together for the little ones, Children’s Choir & Junior Cantors Rehearsal for our youth, and an Education Forum for Adults! A special word of thanks to Sue Mathisen & Kari Shorack for prepping the meal and to all who help with clean-up afterwards!

The ELCA National Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis June 27th – July 3rd (dates include travel days to/from MSP). Central, United, and Emmaus (CUE) are planning to offer this as our summer youth trip for current 8th-12th graders. An information meeting for current students and parents will take place at Central today at 12:30pm. Come and hear more about this exciting opportunity!

Annual Solicitation for Funding Special Projects: CLC Endowment Committee is actively soliciting proposals for funding special projects within the church, which are outside of the normal budget. Acceptance of these proposals will be guided by the CLC Mission: to be the hands and feet of Jesus by loving God and one another, nurturing faithful living, serving those in need, and sharing the Gospel. Request forms may be obtained in the Narthex, church office, from the Endowment Committee or www.connecttocentral.org/foundation-endowment. Your proposal must be coordinated through a committee, ministry team, council, relevant staff person, and/or one of the pastors. **Deadline: November 1, 2026.** Endowment Fund Committee Members: Kelly Colvin-Smith, Chair; Donna Bennett; Drew Haugen; Stephanie Riess; Becky Shurson; Bruce Smolnisky; and Debbie Knebel (Council Rep).

Interested in membership at Central? We will be receiving new members on Christ the King Sunday, November 22nd. To find out more contact Pastor Laurie.

Need to update your contact info? Or, would you like to be added to our email listserv? If so, contact our Parish Administrator, Kelly Colvin-Smith (churchoffice@welcometocentral.org).

Submit prayer concerns to: prayers@welcometocentral.org. Following the 8:30 worship service individual prayers are being offered in the chapel by one of our prayer ministers.

Can you bring treats for fellowship following Sunday worship? There's a sign-up sheet by the "coffee & treats" table.

Chi Rho Series - October 23-24

Central Lutheran Church

Join us for a weekend of study with Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers and explore the ways that the pipe organ forms sacred community, through the spoken word, hands-on exploration, and musical meditation.

Lead, Wood, Air, Flesh, and Bone: Musical Elements of Sacred Space **Friday, October 23, 7pm**

Our kickoff evening will feature an interactive presentation exploring the role of the pipe organ in forming sacred communities. The program will focus on the organ both practically and imaginatively: an object that is equally a functional musical instrument, an exquisite piece of artisanal craftsmanship, and a symbol of multi-faceted human cooperation.

All Ages Pipe Organ Exploration **Saturday, October 24, 10am**

Come discover how a pipe organ works! In addition to learning about the renowned Brombaugh organ at Central, participants young and old will be able to build a real, functioning pipe organ. The "Do-Organ" kit, on loan from OrgelKids USA, contains 133 parts that groups can assemble under one hour, bringing the science, engineering, and music of the instrument to life.



Organ Vespers

Saturday, October 24, 4pm

Central's Organ Vespers series features meditative programs interspersing organ music and poetry. This Organ Vespers will focus on the pipe organ as a source of poetic imagination, one that often symbolizes community and interdependence.