

May  
2023



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN  
CHRIST CONGREGATION

# THE CENTRALITE

## 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*

### Central's Staff

Pastor Laurie A. Jones  
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Campus Minister/Christus House  
Deacon Clare Josef-Maier  
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Organist/Choirmaster  
Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Assoc. Organist/Children's Music  
Dr. Lindsey H. Rodgers

Parish Administrator  
Kristi Hoiland

Financial Manager  
Cindy Culpepper

Minister to Children, Youth &  
Families for CUE  
Crystal Miller

Video & Tech Support  
Thomas Stine

### Church Council

President, Jean Clancey  
Vice Pres, Debbie Knebel  
Secretary, Jack Bennett  
Treas, Charlotte Bontrager  
Ron Fenchak  
Matt Haugen  
Howard Kallinen  
Jill Liedtke  
Chuck Swenson

### Haydn's Great Organ Solo Mass Sunday, May 7, at 8:30am & 11am

Our worship leaders will include the Central Chorale & Central Chamber Orchestra with Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers, organ soloist, and Dr. A. ElRay Steward-Cook, conducting, along with soloists: Naomi Castro, Grace Vangel, Alyse Jamieson, David Gustafson, Stephen Rodgers, Daniel Au, Dylan Buntin, and Blake Hodgetts.

### Special In-Gathering Offering for Property/Capital Improvements Sunday, May 21st

For more information, please read Pastor Laurie's article on page 2.

**Also, on May 21st**, our Children's Choir will be helping to lead us in worship at both services and two of our HS Seniors, Honora Mathisen-Lund and Thomas Stine, will be receiving Central Lutheran Foundation scholarships (see p. 8 for more details).

***FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE*****Christ is Risen! Alleluia!  
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Dear Easter People,

The spirit of generosity at Central Lutheran never ceases to amaze me. A week after celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord with shouts of "Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!" ...a week after pulling out all the stops on the Brombaugh Organ and singing joyful songs of praise to God, the Creator of all, to our Lord and Savior, the Risen Christ, and to the Holy Spirit stirring in, with and among us ...a week after hearing the word, sharing in the Lord's Supper, and celebrating the baptism of Evelyn Lee Perez... a week after that glorious, festival worship on Easter Sunday... we gathered again, on the Second Sunday of Easter (often referred to as the "low Sunday" due to the dramatic decline in worship attendance)... And on that Sunday, between services, with more than a quorum of voting members of Central present, we heard Chuck Swenson give a run-down of property needs and capital improvements outside the normal budget. The list of items include dry rot damage to the south wall of the Sanctuary, a new roof over the Admin & Education wing, a boiler pump to replace one that was damaged by a fluke EWEB outage in our area, new windows at Anderson House (1842 University), exterior signage to replace existing ones that likely date back some 50+ years, and some other minor, but necessary repairs... Not only did we approve these expenditures unanimously, we also voted to take up to \$150,000 from existing Capital Reserves (of just under \$230,000) to pay for them. These items came to light after we approved a rather ambitious Mission & Ministry Budget for 2023 at the semi-annual meeting in January.

Therefore, we also took this opportunity to make a rather bold "ask" of the congregation. We asked those who are able to consider an "above and beyond" gift for these projects, thereby reducing the amount we would need from our Capital Reserves. Over the course of the next few days I was overwhelmed by the response from many of you who reached out to me directly indicating that you would be able to provide a special gift. I am humbled by your generosity, and I too, plan to make such a gift. However, I also know not everyone is able to do so—we give freely, according to our ability, not out of duty or obligation, but as a response to God's good gifts. Yet there are some among us who are faced with burdensome obligations or are living on a fixed income. While our monetary gifts are not equal, we share as we are able. Some of you have already sent in gifts (thank you!), but for others who wish to contribute, your gift should be earmarked for "Property." We will be receiving those in public worship (anonymously, of course) as a Special In-gathering Offering on May 21st. Blessed to be a blessing—that's what we are!

In Christ's Abiding Love,

+Pastor Laurie

## ***FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN***

“When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted” Matt. 28:17

Dear Worshiping Community at Central,

The verse above is from the Gospel of Matthew. This year, we have been journeying in the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Matthew has an enduring emphasis on worship (or “knelt down” depending upon your translation) – more than any other Gospel. Jesus is first worshiped by the Magi at his birth in Matt. 2:11. He is worshiped by a leper before Jesus heals him in 8:2. The leader of the synagogue whose daughter has just died worships Jesus hoping he would raise his daughter (9:18). After Jesus walks on the water the disciples worship Jesus in the boat (14:33). The Canaanite woman worships Jesus requesting he heal her daughter (15:25). A man worships Jesus requesting that his son who has epilepsy can be healed (17:14). The women at the tomb worship Jesus when Jesus appears to them (28:9), and finally our verse above when Jesus appears to the eleven one final time (28:17).

Some of those citations are usually translated as “bow down” and many might wonder whether it really means they were worshiping or not (maybe they just wanted Jesus to give them something!). But then notice the final passage: “When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.” It doesn’t say that only those who were confident worshiped, as if to say that those who doubted weren’t worshipers. Instead, it says that some doubted, but they all worshiped. Some were seemingly able to be confident that day, others doubted, but they all were part of the worshiping community. The people who bowed down before Jesus and wanted something also recognized who Jesus was. Their motivations for coming to Jesus might have been complicated, but they all are invited to come – the doubters and those with confidence.

During the season of Lent, in our Tuesday evening class, we had the opportunity to talk about the Lutheran Worship service. We used it simultaneously as our vehicle for a new member class as well as a good conversation with those who have been worshiping with us for a very long time. We could do that because the way we worship expresses our deepest theology. Martin Luther called it Gottesdienst – “service of God/God’s service” – both the way God serves us and the way we serve God. It is both things at all times. Grace is given to us and we respond to that gift by the very grace we have been given. It shows us who God is, who we are, and how God works in our lives.

An aspect of our worship service is that worship takes us on a journey. We come into the space and the service itself prepares us, gathers us, proclaims the Word of God to us, meets us with the body and blood of Jesus for you at the meal, and sends us out into the world. Sometimes we come with confidence, sometimes we come with doubt; but we all come into one space as one body and worship.

Pastor Ben

## **Cradle to Crayons Family Group! (Families with children Age 0-5)**



You are invited to come with your child/ren (age 0-5) to a new group at Central Lutheran that encourages play, faith formation, and support for one another as parents.

### **First Meeting:**

**Saturday, May 6, 10:30am at Tugman Park** (3666 Hilyard St) for a time for children to play, parents to interact, and families to get to know one another. Snacks will be provided.

Please RSVP to Pastor Ben: [pastorben@welcometocentral.org](mailto:pastorben@welcometocentral.org)

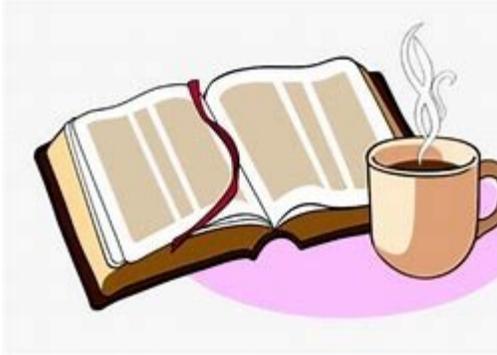
## **REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN FOR SUMMER VBS (but filling up fast) June 26th - 30th (9am-12:30pm)**

Central, United, and Emmaus (CUE) are excited to partner together to offer another fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School for children ages 3 years old thru 5th grade. Hosted at Central, we'll gather for fun activities including worship, story-time, crafts, songs, games, and snacks. Friends are welcome!

Older youth (MS/HS) and adults are needed to help with daily activities. Please let Crystal know if you are available to help with preparations and/or your availability to help for the entire week or even for a few days. (Still needed: daily registrar and help with snacks.) Email Crystal: [crystal@unitedlutheran.org](mailto:crystal@unitedlutheran.org).

To register your child/ren or grandchild/ren, click the link below or go online to:

<https://forms.gle/1RfkFchQEEQiYmd76>



**OPPORTUNITIES AROUND  
TO ENGAGE IN  
*NURTURING FAITHFUL LIVING!***

**MEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

**NOTE: NEW LOCATION/NEW TIME**

The Men’s Bible Study is now meeting weekly on Wednesdays at **The Springs, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd. Eugene at 8:00am**. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact Gary Wolfe ([gswolfe@aol.com](mailto:gswolfe@aol.com)).

**LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY**

All are welcome to join Pastor Laurie and/or Pastor Ben on Wednesdays at 11am via Zoom as we study the readings for the upcoming Sunday. No preparation needed. Email Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben if you’d like to have the link sent directly to your inbox.

**WOMEN’S PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY**

The Women's Prayer and Bible Study group meets weekly on Thursdays at 11am via Zoom using the Bible study guides found in the ELCA’s Gather Magazine. For more information contact Betsy Berg ([rb24@aol.com](mailto:rb24@aol.com)). Newcomers are always welcome!

**RECONCILING IN CHRIST**

Join Deacon Clare for RIC continuing education classes at Together Tuesdays on May 9,16, and 23. Come for dinner at 5:15pm, stay for class at 6pm, on your way home by 7pm.



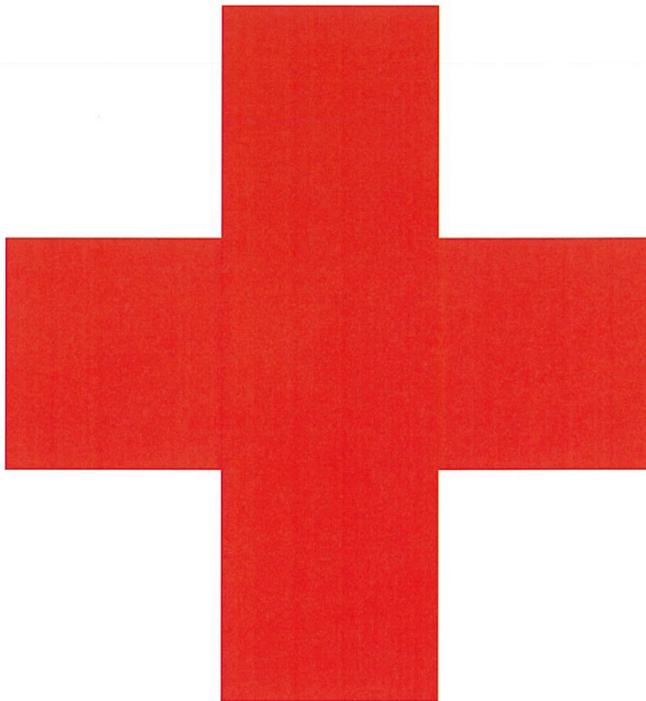
Central Lutheran Church became a Reconciling in Christ congregation in 2009 affirming its ongoing commitment to people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. As the landscape and discourse about gender, sex, and sexuality continue to evolve, we honor this commitment by staying connected to the conversation. You are invited to both learn and share!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Spread the word to**  
**your family & friends—**

**Sign up to:**  
*Give blood.*

Every 2 seconds someone  
in the U.S. needs blood.

**American Red Cross**



**Blood Drive**  
**Central Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall  
1857 Potter Street  
Eugene, OR 97403

**Thursday, June 15, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code:  
centrallutheraneugene, or call Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting  
[RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health  
history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to  
RapidPass®

**Do good this summer! Come give in June for a \$10 gift  
card by email to a merchant of your choice.**



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.



### **WORK DAYS AT CAMP SATURDAY MAY 6 & JUNE 3**

Please consider joining staff and friends to help get camp spruced up for summer—volunteer at Camp on Saturday, May 6 and/or Saturday, June 3 for an onsite workday from 9am to 3pm. Workdays also provide an opportunity to introduce new campers to the site so youth are also welcome to join us! Lunch is provided. Please register in advance on Lutherwood’s website:

<https://www.lutherwoodoregon.org/mark-your-calendar-for-spring-work-days/>

### **LUTHERWOOD SUNDAY AT CENTRAL, SUNDAY JUNE 4**

Sunday, June 4, will be “Lutherwood Sunday” at Central. There will be representatives from the Lutherwood staff joining us for worship that morning and also leading an intergenerational experience between services during the education hour that will show what Camp Lutherwood is up to and new ideas they have. Children, youth, parents, grandparents and adults interested in supporting the ministry of Camp Lutherwood should plan to be here!



## Highlights from Church Council

(Full Church Council Minutes are available upon request at [info@welcometocentral.org](mailto:info@welcometocentral.org))

The Church Council met on Apr. 19, 2023

Treasurer's Report: See last page

Action Items:

Motion from the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to appoint Yulia Graham as the Graduate Residence Director (GRD) of Christus House for the academic year 2023-2024 was passed.

The next Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting was set for Sunday, June 11 between services.

## CONGRATUALIONS 2023 GRADUATES

On March 29, Pastor Ben defended his doctoral dissertation, "The Apocalyptic Character of the Ethnic Identity Argument in Galatians." This concludes his Ph.D. in Biblical Studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. His formal degree will be conferred on May 19, 2023. Congregations, Pastor Ben!

Mia Lindsay, daughter of Dennis & Karen, graduates from the University of Portland on Sunday, May 7th with two degrees: BS in Biology and BA in Psychology. Mia will be preparing to take her MCAT exam in early June and then going to visit her parents in Germany for a month or so. Congratulations, Mia!

Finally, every year the Central Lutheran Foundation awards scholarships to High Seniors from Central. This year's applicants are Honora Mathisen-Lund and Thomas Stine. Those awards will be presented in worship on Sunday, May 21. Honora is graduating from Marist High School and in the fall will be attending the Oregon Institute of Technology at the Portland-Metro Campus in Wilsonville to pursue a degree in Applied Science in Paramedicine. Thomas is graduating from South Eugene High School and will be attending Oregon State University and working toward a degree in Electrical Engineering. Congratulations, Honora and Thomas!

## BOOK CLUB NEWS



The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7pm to discuss [A Gentleman in Moscow](#) by Amor Towles. "When, in 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, he is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous

decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery. Brimming with humor, a glittering cast of characters, and one beautifully rendered scene after another, this singular novel casts a spell as it relates the count's endeavor to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose." (Goodreads.com) The discussion will be led by Kathleen Heinz.

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). The ZOOM link will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

Looking Ahead: The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, June 12, 2023, at 7:00pm to discuss [Birth of a Cooperative: Hoedads, Inc.](#), about a worker-owned Forest Labor Co-op, by Hal Hartzell, Jr. The discussion will be led by Meg Hicks.

## WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Terry Chap, Chuck Dietz, Dal Haverland, Lori Lund, Doug & Jody Martin, Gretchen & Jeff Simas, the family of David Zhou



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

## INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

Individual prayer is available in the chapel on the **first Sunday of the month** directly after the 8:30 service. You are invited to join one of our prayer ministers for one-on-one prayer in a private setting.

## Central Lutheran Church

### Jan-Mar 2023 Income:Expense to Budget - Jan-Mar 2022 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-Mar 2023	YTD 2023 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-Mar 2022
Regular Envelopes	\$ 168,151.99	\$ 158,750.01	\$ 9,401.98	\$ 138,074.53
Other Offerings	1,140.30	1,950.00	\$ (809.70)	\$ 503.00
Holiday Offerings	2,232.00	5,733.68	\$ (3,501.68)	\$ 380.00
Other Income	8,052.12	9,341.01	\$ (1,288.89)	\$ 5,270.60
Departmental Income	37,919.31	40,501.84	\$ (2,582.53)	\$ 28,641.44
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 217,495.72</b>	<b>\$ 216,276.54</b>	<b>\$ 1,219.18</b>	<b>\$ 172,869.57</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 246,181.97</b>	<b>\$ 231,709.60</b>	<b>\$ 14,472.37</b>	<b>\$ 205,545.50</b>
<b>YTD Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (28,686.25)</b>	<b>\$ (15,433.06)</b>	<b>\$ (13,253.19)</b>	<b>\$ (32,675.93)</b>
Prorated carryover- Previous Year	\$ 8,268.75	\$ 8,268.75	\$ -	\$ 9,544.50
<b>Net after carryover applied</b>	<b>\$ (20,417.50)</b>	<b>\$ (7,164.31)</b>	<b>\$ (13,253.19)</b>	<b>\$ (23,131.43)</b>

### CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1857 POTTER STREET EUGENE 97403

541-345-0395

WEBSITE: [WWW.CONNECTTOCENTRAL.ORG](http://WWW.CONNECTTOCENTRAL.ORG)