

# THE CENTRALITE

March 2022



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  
Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Associate Organist  
Dr. Lindsey H. Rodgers

Parish Administrator  
Kristi Hoiland

Financial Manager  
Cindy Culpepper

Minister to Children, Youth  
& Families for CUE  
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*



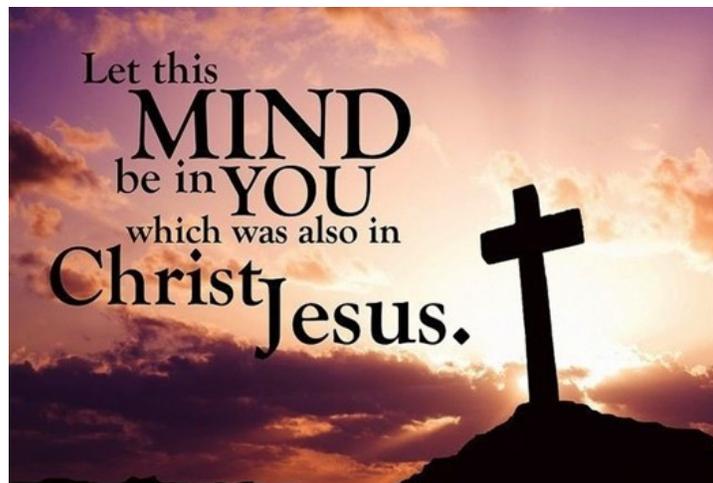
## Worship Schedule for Lent

**Ash Wednesday Worship  
Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion  
March 2nd at noon & 7:30pm**

Please note: All daytime services will be held in the Sanctuary in person or via Zoom; All evening services will be held in the Sanctuary in person or via livestream.

## *"At the Name of Jesus"*

A Lenten Midweek Series based on Philippians 2:5-11  
Tuesdays at 7:00pm – Holden Evening Prayer  
Wednesdays at 12:30pm – Worship w/Communion



Mar 8/9: *Christ emptied and humbled himself*  
Mar 15/16: *Christ became obedient*  
Mar 22/23: *At the name of Jesus all knees shall bow*  
Mar 29/30: *Every tongue confesses Jesus*  
Apr 5/6: *Let the same mind be in you*

Dear People of God,

On the pages that follow you can learn more about how we intend to mark the season of Lent with opportunities for worship, study and service. On the very next page Vicar Ben has outlined the theme for our Lenten series. But I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the logistics moving forward during this time of cautious optimism as we anticipate moving from a global "pandemic" to an "endemic" and what I suspect will come to be defined as our "new normal."

First, it goes without saying this has been a challenging time for everyone, but also for us as a community of faith. As I write this epistle, we are anticipating the mask mandate in our state will end on March 19th. However, as people of faith, we would do well to remember the purpose of wearing masks in the first place. You'll recall we were told it was not merely to protect ourselves, but more importantly we were encouraged to wear masks as a way of protecting our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable among us. So I want to remind you that at the core of our faith is our Lord's mandate to love our neighbors as ourselves. You'll recall when Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest of all he responded, "Love the Lord your God with all our heart, soul, and mind," but he quickly added, "and a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Still I'm anticipating many of you will be wondering: Will we continue to mandate masks in worship at Central? And the short answer is: "no." Once the mandate is lifted statewide, masks will no longer be required. However, for a variety of reasons, I suspect many among us will remain uncomfortable being in close proximity with those without masks. We need to make sure we hold space for those for whom that is the case. On the other hand, I also know some of you have been waiting for the day masks are no longer required before returning to worship in person. Given the space and size of our sanctuary, I am confident it is large enough to safely accommodate both masked and unmasked worshipers. And so, as we live into this "new normal," I trust that those who wish to remain cautious and/or distanced can do so without fear of judgment. I also want to remind us, to look for social cues as to the comfort level of those around us and take that into consideration in all of our interactions.

Having said that, you've also heard me say how essential and necessary it is for us, as the body of Christ, to physically be together—in the flesh—insofar as it is safe for us to do so. I think we all know a "virtual" community can never replace the embodied, living, breathing community that gathers together to offer thanks and praise to God under one roof. However, I want to be perfectly clear that I am truly grateful for how we've been able to reach out and connect with one another through the means of technology. I also know that, for a variety of reasons, some of you will continue to participate in worship via the livestream and/or on Zoom. Regardless of when/how we worship, my deepest longing is that we all strive to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, and mind, *and* our neighbors as ourselves. Finally, thanks for hanging in there during these most challenging times. We are indeed blessed... blessed to be a blessing. Thanks be to God!

In Christ's Abiding Love,  
+Pastor Laurie

*"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11*

Dear fellow members of the body of Christ at Central,

We are wrapping up our season of Epiphany where we spent several weeks seeing the various ways Jesus reveals his glory to the world culminating in Transfiguration Sunday when beams of light radiate from Jesus' face. Glory is the manifestation of the presence of God in the world – so when Jesus reveals his glory, he is revealing his fully divine nature. Now, we are preparing to enter the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 2. As we do, we consider our own mortality and recognize the world we live in full of weakness, temptations, pain, and suffering—what Paul called the "present evil age" (Gal 1:4). To do that, we focus on the life and humanity of Jesus, especially focusing upon Jesus' own suffering and death.

It sounds like we are turning completely around and changing our focus completely – from glory in Epiphany to suffering and death in Lent. However, that is not actually what we are doing. Jesus' divine nature emanating in the world – his glory – is never absent and is as present during his moments of humanity and suffering as those moments of power that we saw during the season of Epiphany.

Our theme for our midweek Lenten series (Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at 12:30pm) is "At the name of Jesus" where we will be reflecting on Phil 2:5-11 quoted above. Paul writes about Jesus' humanity, humility, obedience, and death. These are familiar Lenten themes. But also Paul writes of Jesus' exaltation and the power of his death and resurrection – that every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, to the *glory* of God. The glory of God is revealed in Jesus *both* in moments of power and in moments of humility. It is inclusive of all.

We also recognize that those moments of Jesus' journey which look like humiliation and suffering are moments for us to focus on our own mortality and recognize our sinfulness as we usually do in Lent. But equally those moments of Jesus' power *also* reveal our own sinfulness and mortality. Jesus cannot be divided – when we experience the presence of Jesus we experience Jesus' glory and his humanity simultaneously. To participate in Christ is to participate in every aspect of Christ at all times.

In this way, we also experience our own lives. Sometimes we live in moments that look like moments of exhilaration, joy, and power – where we can sense the Spirit of God pervading among us. Yet, there are also moments of our lives that look like moments of suffering, loneliness, pain, and grief where we can sometimes wonder if God is even there. But the full aspect of Jesus as fully human and fully divine is present in all of that. When Paul says that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, he is expressing the universality of Christ over all people in every space at every time. What binds our lives together is the presence of Jesus embracing us exactly where we are in every aspect of our lives.

In Christ's love,  
Vicar Ben



**Congratulations** to Hannah Grace & Austin Loeb upon the birth of their daughter, Everly Lea Loeb. God's blessings to big sister Rylie Grace and Grandmother Sharon Chamness as well.

## Welcome to Central

On Sunday, January 30th, during our 8:30am worship service, the following people were welcomed into membership at Central by Affirmation of Baptism:

**Jeanne and Thomas Christie**  
**Margaret and Michael King**  
**Anne McCrory**  
**Megan McCrory**  
**Alice Rotchstein**

We are blessed to have these men and women join us in the mission we share to be the hands and feet of Jesus and will look forward to opportunities to get to know one another!



**A special word of thanks to Sarah and Mark Gillem** for sharing their Sunriver home with the High School youth for their ski trip over President's weekend. **Thanks also to Nathan Christensen** for being a chaperone and driving them safely to/from the ski basin.

## Prayer Ministry at Central

*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. John 15: 7*

Do you have concerns, grief, loss, joy, thanksgiving, health issues, looking for guidance, not sure what to do? Take it to the Lord in prayer! The Lord is there to help us and prayer is one of the ways we communicate with the Lord. People praying for each other is fulfilling our mission statement by being the hands and feet of Jesus. Praying is one of the ways we LOVE, NUTURE, SERVE, and SHARE. Do you have a need for prayers? Let the Prayer Ministry Prayer Advocates pray for you. You can send your prayer request to [prayers@welcometocentral.org](mailto:prayers@welcometocentral.org) or by calling the Church Office.

Or, become a Prayer Advocate. Advocates pray for people on our Prayer List. Each week, Prayer Advocates receive a Prayer List with names and reasons for prayers. Then the Prayer Advocates lift up those individuals and situations on the list in prayer.

Prayer is a powerful expression of our faith and draws us closer to God! Blessings from the Prayer Ministry Team! Serve the Lord and Pray!

## Children, Youth & Family News & Events

### Saturday, March 26th at 8:45am - Family tree planting with Friends of Trees

We will work with the organization Friends of Trees to plant trees in the Mangan Park neighborhood. All ages are welcome to participate, those younger than 12 years of age need to participate with a parent.

Friends of Trees is following CDC and OHA guidelines for COVID 19 safety protocols. They ask that those 12 years and older be fully vaccinated and all participants wear masks and practice social distancing. Please let Crystal know by Sunday, March 13th if your family or youth will be participating.

### Children's Music Ministry at Central

Check out [musictogether-eugene.org](http://musictogether-eugene.org) for information or to register for the Spring session of Music Together. These 10-week sessions, hosted at Central for members and friends of Central, as well as the wider community of Eugene/Springfield, are geared for children ages 0-5 (accompanied by a parent/grandparent). Questions can be emailed to our Center Director, Lindsey H. Rodgers, by clicking [here](#). In addition, Central's Children's Choir (for ages 5 and up) will also be resuming following Spring break. Starting on the first Sunday of April, rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings between services from 10:00am-10:45am. Families are encouraged to attend the 11am service.

### Saturday, April 9th 10am to 3pm - Pre-Easter Celebration

All kids are invited to a pre-Easter celebration at United Lutheran Church. We will gather together to learn about Holy Week and the Easter story. Our time together will include crafts, games, and story exploration. Again, please let Crystal know if your child/ren will be participating in this event. Help is needed from teen and adult volunteers for this activity. Please RSVP by Sunday, April 3rd.

### Saturday, April 16th 10am - Easter Egg Hunt

Central will host an Easter egg hunt for children and youth on Saturday, April 16th beginning at 10am. Meet at the church parking lot for instructions and we'll make our way across the street for the egg hunt in the Pioneer Cemetery. Teen and adult volunteers are needed!

### Registration is now open for Vacation Bible School

Our theme for Vacation Bible School this year will be "Christmas in July." All kids ages 3 and up are invited to participate. Youth 6th grade and above and adults are invited and encouraged to volunteer. There's a place for everyone at VBS! This will again be a joint ministry between Central, United, and Emmaus Lutheran churches and will be held at Central Lutheran on June 27th - July 1st. To register your child/ren please do so online by utilizing this link:

<https://forms.gle/JXMoThR3RuVgX3a67>

A suggested donation of \$25 per participant or \$50 per family will help defray the costs of camp and can be sent to Central Lutheran. Please talk to Crystal if you have any questions.

## BOOK CLUB NEWS



The CLC Book Club will meet via ZOOM on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 7pm to discuss *Grace Will Lead Us Home: The Charleston Church Massacre and the Hard, Inspiring Journey to Forgiveness* by Jennifer Berry Hawes.

On June 17, 2015, twelve members of the historically black Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina, welcomed a young white man to their evening Bible study. After sitting quietly with the group for an hour and during their closing prayer, he shot and killed nine of them. Two of the victims were graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. The shooter, a 21-year-old self-professed white supremacist who hoped to start a race war, happened to be a member of an ELCA congregation.

Two days later at the shooter's hearing, some relatives of the dead stood and said, "I forgive you." That grace offered the country a hopeful ending to a horrific massacre. But the journey for the survivors and victims' families had only just begun.

With unprecedented access to the grieving families and other key figures, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jennifer Berry Hawes provides a definitive account of the tragedy's aftermath. She offers a nuanced and moving portrait of the events and emotions that emerged in the massacre's wake, reflecting on the power of anger, pain, and forgiveness. This is the story of how, beyond the headlines, a community of people begins to heal.

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 via Zoom on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. to discuss *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe. The discussion will be led by Ginger Bopp.

# Lent



### NURTURE FAITHFUL LIVING

**Families:** be sure to pick up your "Lenten Kit" filled with activities and devotions to do at home during the season of Lent. The kits, prepared for our families by Crystal Miller, will be available for pick up in the Narthex or Church office by February 27th.



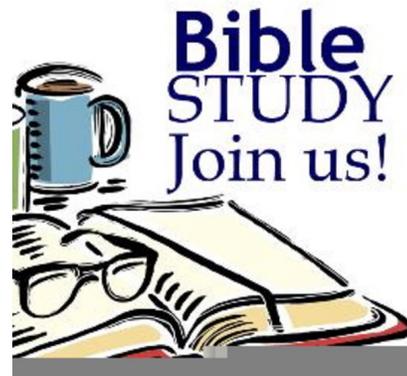
## WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Baby Michael, Lue Berg, Terry Chap, Bonnie Betts, Carolyn & Bob Evans, Linnea Embleton, Arline Fors, Ilona Johnson, Keith Jurasevich, Joy Lathrop, Doug & Jody Martin, Carolyn Pape, Ellen Rasmussen, Shirley Watson, and Genevieve Youngquist. Also the family and friends of Susan Jennings whose Memorial Service was held at Central on February 22.

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



## 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. (Note: This Bible study group will not meet on Ash Wednesday.)

## WOMEN'S PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Prayer and Bible Study meets weekly on **Thursdays at 11am** on 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).

## Highlights from Church Council

In order to better inform the congregation of the business of the church, this new column will appear in the newsletter monthly to provide highlights of the most recent church council meeting. Because this was not done for the January newsletter, this report includes highlights from both the January and February church council meetings.

### Jan. 19, 2022

#### Action Items

1. Approval of the 2022 Mission and Ministry Budget to bring to the congregational semi-annual meeting on Jan. 30 2022 (which was subsequently passed by the congregation on that date).

#### Reports

Property issues:

- A. The elevator that had broken and was inactive has now been repaired and is working. The cost of the repair was approximately \$10,000 which was significantly less than the original estimate of replacing it which would have been over \$25,000.
- B. There are some roof leaks in the sacristy that have been temporarily repaired (a permanent repair will be done once we are out of the rainy season).
- C. Christus House continues to have plumbing issues. Options on how to address this long-term are being explored.
- D. There has been recent vandalism to the building and the church van which are being addressed by the Property Team.

### Feb. 16, 2022

#### Action Items

1. Approval and welcome of seven new member of the congregation through the Affirmation of Baptism during worship on Jan. 30, 2022: Jeanne & Tom Christie, Michael & Margaret King, Anne McCrory, Morgan McCrory and Alice Rotchstein.
2. Approval of a minor update to the Christus House Graduate Residence Director job description following the recommendation of the Personnel and Policy Committee

#### Reports

1. The Lenten worship schedule will be as follows: Ash Wednesday (Mar 2) at noon and 7:30pm; mid-week services on Tuesdays at 7pm and Wednesdays at 12:30pm (Mar 8/9; 15/16; 22/23; 29/30; Apr 5/6).
2. The Quilting Ministry team is actively seeking new members and new participation.
3. The Reconciling in Christ evening class has been well attended and productive.
4. The Stewardship Committee is considering Care for Creation as an emphasis of Stewardship for the upcoming year in addition to other aspects of congregational stewardship.



## Reconciling in Christ: Evolving Conversations

On February 6th, Central Lutheran Church celebrated Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday. An RIC congregation since 2009, Central Lutheran was ready to engage new questions, challenges, and opportunities for what it means to be welcoming, celebrating, including, and advocating for LGBTQ+ folks today. Following RIC Sunday, members and friends have gathered via Zoom on Tuesday evenings for a 4-week series exploring new terms and frameworks, evolving society at large, and how a welcoming space can become a transformative space for all. We are grateful for the strong engagement and for these uplifting, productive, and grace-filled conversations. In our concluding class on Tuesday, March 1st, we will set ourselves up to update our welcome statement to align with current RIC Partner Commitments and celebrate our ongoing commitment to reconciliation on behalf of all God's beloved children. God's work continues in our midst!

### Are you looking for a Duck Parking Pass for UO softball season?

As in years past, our youth ministry has been generously supported by members and friends of Central who choose to make a monetary donation in exchange for a reserved space on the Church parking lot. This year none of the home games conflict with our worship schedule so if you're looking for a way to support our youth to help raise funds for their summer trip and other events, and you're also hoping for a prime spot on the lot across from the stadium, please call the church office and arrange to pick up your "season parking pass." This year, rather than a set amount, we are simply asking for you to give as you're able. And for those who made a donation in 2020 when the season was so abruptly canceled, feel free to pick up the pass you intended to use that year. Don't worry, we know who you are! Instructions on how to display your pass will be provided at the time you arrange to pick up your pass.

### Lenten Offering Designated for ELCA World Hunger

*We invite you to **study, pray, reflect** and **give** with us during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving — for our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.*

As the world has reeled from the effects of a deadly pandemic, we have seen the number of hungry people around the world rise, watched as food pantries and soup kitchens expanded to serve an ever-growing number of guests, and longed together for the time when we "will hunger no more, and thirst no more ... and God will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes" (Revelation 7:16-17). This very yearning is at the heart of who we are as church together. Yet our longing has never led to inertia or despair, despite the discouraging forecasts. We are an Easter people, ever journeying toward the cross but trusting in faith that God's story does not end on that hill.

(Reprinted from the ELCA's website at [elca.org](http://elca.org))

Designated gifts can be made payable to Central with "Lenten Offering" in the memo line.

**Central Lutheran Church**  
**January 2022 Compared to January 2021 Income:Expense Summary**

	Jan-22	Jan-21	Difference
Regular Envelopes	\$ 50,132.50	\$ 56,666.39	\$ (6,533.89)
Other Offerings	\$ 218.00	\$ -	\$ 218.00
Holiday Offerings	-	\$ -	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 219.38	\$ (211.52)	\$ 430.90
Departmental Income	\$ 5,631.62	\$ 4,621.74	\$ 1,009.88
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 56,201.50</b>	<b>\$ 61,076.61</b>	<b>\$ (4,875.11)</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 56,592.88</b>	<b>\$ 53,464.30</b>	<b>\$ 3,128.58</b>
<b>YTD Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (391.38)</b>	<b>\$ 7,612.31</b>	<b>\$ (8,003.69)</b>
<b>Prorated carryover-Previous Year</b>	<b>\$ 3,181.50</b>	<b>\$ 5,111.17</b>	<b>\$ (1,929.67)</b>
<b>Net after carryover applied</b>	<b>\$ 2,790.12</b>	<b>\$ 12,723.48</b>	<b>\$ (9,933.36)</b>



Clarine Bremer  
5320 Fox Hollow Rd Eugene OR 97405  
Dal & Gaye Haverland  
455 Alexander Loop #136 Eugene OR 97401  
Craig & Amy Wanichak  
615 Spyglass Dr Eugene OR 97401

**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.CONNECTTOCENTRAL.ORG](http://WWW.CONNECTTOCENTRAL.ORG)