

March
2023

THE CENTRALITE



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN
CHRIST CONGREGATION

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
pastorlaurie@
welcometocentral.org
(206-354-6756)

Pastor Ben Nickodemus
pastorben@welcometocentral.org
(208-290-1165)

Campus Minister/Christus House
Deacon Clare Josef-Maier
clare@begoodsoil.org

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



Date	2023 Lent/Holy Week/Easter Schedule
February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26	Sundays in Lent Worship at 8:30am & 11am with Education between services 9:45-10:45am
February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28	Together Tuesdays - 5:15-6pm Soup Supper; 6pm Music Together, Children's Choir, Adult Ed; 7pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship
April 2 Palm Sunday	Worship with Reception of New Members at 8:30am & 11am
April 6 Maundy Thursday	Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:30pm
April 7 Good Friday	Prayer Vigil noon-3pm in the Chapel; and Good Friday Worship at 7:30pm
April 8 Holy Saturday	Easter Egg Hunt at 10am (meet in the Parish Hall)
April 9 Easter Sunday	The Resurrection of Our Lord Festival Worship at 8:30am & 11am

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good..." (Romans 12:9)

Dear People of God,

When Jesus was asked which of God's commandments is the greatest, he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). Then he added, "the second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (v.31). Jesus—the good rabbi—was pretty clear: Love God. Love neighbor.

In today's world, we, who seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, would do well to heed those words and proclaim them boldly. With the exception of *hating* evil, hate—such as intolerance for those who differ from us—has no place in our communities, our schools, our homes, or in places faithful people gather to offer God their worship and praise. In Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome, he writes of the marks of the true Christian, reminding them (and us!) "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good..."

Recently Rabbi Ruhi of Temple Beth Israel forwarded an email she received from Jessica Anderson, the Regional Security Advisor for Oregon and SW Washington. It said,

Earlier this year, a Telegram channel for an antisemitic group began advertising for a national day of hate which is being publicized as Saturday, February 25th, 2023. The intent of the day is to use the tactics of banner drops, stickers, flyers, and graffiti. SCN is not aware of specific cities that may be targeted in this upcoming campaign and national events like this have been coordinated before. It's difficult to gauge ahead of time how extensive or widespread the participation will be.

Upon receiving Rabbi Ruhi's email, and following local news reports of a spike of antisemitic flyers being posted in the Thurston neighborhood of Springfield, and areas of Eugene, Deacon Clare brought this disturbing matter to the attention of our Lutheran rostered ministers who gather for text study each week. Once again, she shared, our local Jewish communities are faced with anxiety and fear. In response, we are gathering to stand vigil in solidarity outside Temple Beth Israel for their morning prayer service this Saturday (2/25). If you would like to join us in one of two shifts: 9:45-11am or 11-12:15pm, you can reach out to Deacon Clare (206.683.2921). Due to security measures TBI has in place, all participants need to be identified by us. In other words, they ask that we tell our people not to just show up. Therefore, early Saturday morning, Deacon Clare will alert everyone who reaches out to her of any final details for our participation.

Given the short notice, obviously some who may wish to be present will be unable to do so. In that case, you can join us in prayer from wherever you may be. My devotional prayer suggestion for this season of Lent is from Psalm 51: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me." With Paul, I also encourage us to hate what is evil and hold fast to what is good, not just this Saturday, and not just during the season of Lent, but in every season of our lives. Let us continually strive to follow Jesus' teachings by loving God and our neighbors.

In Christ's Abiding Love,

+Pastor Laurie

*“For I long to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift so that you may be strengthened—or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.”
Romans 1:11-12*

Dear friends and members of Central,

The verse above is from the letter Paul writes to the church in Rome. Unlike most of Paul’s letters, this is one he writes to a community that he does not already know. He hopes to meet them and be supported by them as he heads further West on a missionary journey into Spain (Rom 15:24). As a result, much of the letter of Romans is not responding to a particular situation, but instead is simply Paul introducing himself and how he understands the Gospel. Paul is telling his story. He talks about his experience and his understanding of who Jesus is in his life. You see above that Paul hopes to meet the members of the church in Rome and for each of them to strengthen each other’s faith by sharing their stories with each other. Paul calls sharing their stories the “sharing of a spiritual gift.”

During the season of Lent, we will have some new opportunities to share our story, as Central Lutheran Church. God is working in amazing ways in our community. One of the ways we will be doing that is through a new Lenten daily devotional. Starting at Ash Wednesday you have seen a daily devotional that is posted on the church website and on our Facebook page with daily devotions that are written by members of Central. These short devotions include a Bible verse, a short reflection, a picture, and a prayer. These are from the people of Central for the people of Central. During Lent I encourage you to go through these devotions each day.

Second, if you have been in a ministry team you might have seen someone showing up with an iPad camera at your meetings. We are taking some video footage and creating 2-5 minute video clips of some of the many and various ministries at Central. These will be shown during our Adult Education hour between services (and might be used in other ways later). Through these videos we can *see* aspects of our story in new ways.

We are doing these things in order to help tell our story. We hope the same thing that Paul hoped – that this will result in a strengthening of our faith through mutual encouragement. Christ is alive in this community and the more we hear that, the more we are enlivened. It is the spiritual gift Paul is talking about – sharing our stories of how Christ is alive within us and through us.

In Christ,
Pastor Ben

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES A ministry of Central, United, & Emmaus (CUE)

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER VBS June 26 - 30 (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.

To register your child/ren or grandchild/ren, click the link or go online at <https://forms.gle/1RfkFchQEEQiYmd76>

Reminder for Children & Parents: remember to bring the "passport" from your Lenten devotional kit with you to church on Sundays and Tuesdays to receive a sticker from Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben to add to your passport.

Also: Children are invited to meet in the Godly Play Room on Sundays between services (9:45-10:45am) for story-time, crafts, and other activities.



SERVING THOSE IN NEED...
at the
First Place Family at the Annex

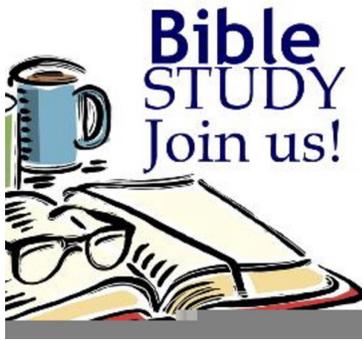
Members of Central have been preparing a weekly meal for the families at St. Vincent de Paul's First Place Family Annex since the early days of the pandemic. The Annex provides temporary housing for families who are working with local agencies to find permanent housing (usually within 90 days). Each Monday, Central members prepare food for over 50 people, including many small children. The food is provided (free) from the Eugene Mission. Routinely the food is picked up on Friday to be prepared and delivered to the First Place Family Center Annex between 4:00-4:30pm the following Monday. We can always use more help! If you are interested in helping out, or would like to know more about the program, please call Kim Meyers at 541-914-8442, or email klmcpa.meyers@gmail.com.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS—CAN YOU HELP?

Soup providers are still needed for our Soup Suppers on Together Tuesdays during Lent (February 28, March 7, 14, 21, & 28). The meal is served between 5:15-6pm. Please let Kristi know if you are able to bring a crockpot of soup (either meat or vegetarian).

***ARE YOU, OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE, WHO IS
LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?***

We will be welcoming new members into our family of faith at Central on Palm Sunday, April 2nd at our 8:30am and 11am worship services. We invite seekers, inquirers, and all those who wish to find out more about "Our Life Together" as people of God at Central Lutheran to attend our Sunday and Tuesday Adult Education classes during Lent. Or, if you, or someone you know, would like more information, simply reach out to Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben and either of us would be happy to take you/them out for coffee and conversation.



OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND TO ENGAGE IN NURTURING FAITHFUL LIVING!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study is meeting weekly on Wednesdays at The Original Pancake House, 782 Broadway, Eugene at **7:30am**. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact Chuck Dietz cdietz41@gmail.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. Newcomers are always welcome!

SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATION

Throughout Lent, our Sunday morning education hour for adults will be meeting in the Parish Hall from 9:45-10:45am. Our theme will be "Who We Are at Central" with opportunities to see video clips of various ministries and share stories of some of the ways we are engaged in Our Life Together at Central and in the wider community. Children are invited to meet each week in the Godly Play room to grow in faith through story-time, crafts, and other activities.

TOGETHER TUESDAY ADULT EDUCATION

The class on Tuesdays will focus on Lutheran Liturgy and Our Life Together—ways the community worships God and engages in mission for the sake of the world—as our liturgical worship moves us from Gathering to Word to Meal to Sending. All are welcome to join us.



My family and I would like to thank our Central Lutheran family and friends for the prayers, cards, and messages during my recent adventure. I now have a new heart valve! It was an amazing procedure and we are grateful for God's ever present grace and the medical people that are part of that grace!

Blessings to our Central family! Norma, Dennis, Sarah, Ruth, and Rachel Vettrus

Thanks also to Ben Brown for organizing the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper for our Together Tuesday the day before Ash Wednesday. It was the first one we've had since February, 2020 and was enjoyed by many of our Central family and friends. A shout out to all who helped decorate, prep, cook, and clean-up afterwards!

LENTEN DAILY DEVOTIONS

Throughout the season of Lent, daily devotions—written by members and friends of Central—are being posted on Central's FaceBook page and our website at connecttocentral.org.

If you would like to receive them directly to your inbox, or if you would like to submit a devotion, you can email those directly to Pastor Ben (pastorben@welcometocentral.org).



Our offerings during Lent are designated to Lutheran Disaster Response for earthquake relief in Turkey & Syria. For those who wish to give online, you can do so at elca.org.

Highlights from Church Council

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

January Meeting

The Church Council met on Jan. 17, 2023

Properties Report: There have been necessary repairs to the South Wall of the Sanctuary replacing dry-rotted portions of the wall. The first stage has been completed, further assessment will come to determine the extent of the damage.

Action Items:

The Church Council approved the motion to recommend the proposed 2023 budget to the congregation to be voted upon at the Semi-Annual meeting on January 29, 2023.

February Meeting

The Church Council met on February 15, 2023

Treasurer's Report: See last page

Properties Report: The necessary repairs to the South Wall of the Sanctuary continue. We have received the bid for the entire project and the total cost is estimated to cost approximately \$35,000. Of that, \$18,000 has already been paid as the first stage work has been completed, the remainder is forthcoming as further work remains to be done. There is hope this will be the full extent of the damage that needs to be repaired.

Action Items:

The Church Council approved the motion to accept the bid of \$13,500 for the larger "monument sign" to be installed at the entrance to the East Parking Lot.



**Sunday,
March 12, 2023**

BOOK CLUB NEWS



The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 7:00pm to discuss The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. "For the young Henry Louis Gates, Jr., growing up in a small, residentially segregated West Virginia town, the church was a center of gravity—an intimate place where voices rose up in song and neighbors gathered to celebrate life's blessings and offer comfort amid its trials and tribulations. In this tender and expansive reckoning with the meaning of the Black Church in America, Gates takes us on a journey spanning more than five

centuries, from the intersection of Christianity and the transatlantic slave trade to today's political landscape. At road's end, and after Gates's distinctive meditation on the churches of his childhood, we emerge with a new understanding of the importance of African American religion to the larger national narrative—as a center of resistance to slavery and white supremacy, as a magnet for political mobilization, as an incubator of musical and oratorical talent that would transform the culture, and as a crucible for working through the Black community's most critical personal and social issues. "The Black Church has always been more than a sanctuary ...It has never been only one thing. Its story lies at the heart of the Black political struggle, and it has produced many of the Black community's most notable leaders. At the same time, some churches and denominations have eschewed political engagement and exemplified practices of exclusion and intolerance that have caused polarization and pain. Those tensions remain today, as a rising generation demands freedom and dignity for all within and beyond their communities, regardless of race, sex, or gender. Still, as a source of faith and refuge, spiritual sustenance and struggle against society's darkest forces, the Black Church has been central, as this enthralling history makes vividly clear." (Barnes & Noble Overview) The discussion will be led by Gary Wolfe.

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.) The Zoom link will be sent out closer to the meeting date. **Looking Ahead:** The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 7:00pm to discuss How The Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America by Clint Smith. The discussion will be led by Ginger Bopp.

WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS



Betsy Berg, Bonnie Betts, Terry Chap, Chuck Dietz, Gale Hatleberg, Lori Lund, Marni Reinmuth, Gretchen & Jeff Simas, and Norma Vettrus.

Click [here](#) to submit a prayer request.
Or, email: 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 2023 Income:Expense to Budget - Jan 2022 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-23	YTD 2023 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-22
Regular Envelopes	\$ 65,986.38	\$ 52,916.67	\$ 13,069.71	\$ 50,132.50
Other Offerings	323.30	650.00	\$ (326.70)	\$ 218.00
Holiday Offerings	-	2,416.67	\$ (2,416.67)	-
Other Income	2,210.79	3,123.67	\$ (912.88)	\$ 219.38
Departmental Income	3,500.10	16,203.40	\$ (12,703.30)	\$ 5,631.62
Total Income	\$ 72,020.57	\$ 75,310.41	\$ (3,289.84)	\$ 56,201.50
Total Expenses	\$ 81,332.83	\$ 92,394.78	\$ (11,061.95)	\$ 56,592.88
YTD Net Income	\$ (9,312.26)	\$ (17,084.37)	\$ 7,772.11	\$ (391.38)
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 2,756.25	\$ 2,756.25	\$ -	\$ 3,181.50
Net after carryover applied	\$ (6,556.01)	\$ (14,328.12)	\$ 7,772.11	\$ 2,790.12

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
1857 POTTER STREET EUGENE 97403
541-345-0395

WEBSITE: WWW.CONNECTTOCENTRAL.ORG