

# THE CENTRALITE

October 2022



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN  
CHRIST CONGREGATION

## Central's Staff

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welcometocentral.org  
(206-354-6756)

Pastor Ben Nickodemus  
pastorben@welcometocentral.org  
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Campus Minister  
Deacon Clare Josef-Maier  
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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, Jean Clancey  
Vice Pres, Debbie Knebel  
Secretary, Jack Bennett  
Treas, Charlotte Bontrager  
Ron Fenchak, Matt Haugen,  
Howard Kallinen, Jill Liedtke  
Chuck Swenson

## CENTRAL LUTHERAN MISSION STATEMENT TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS BY:

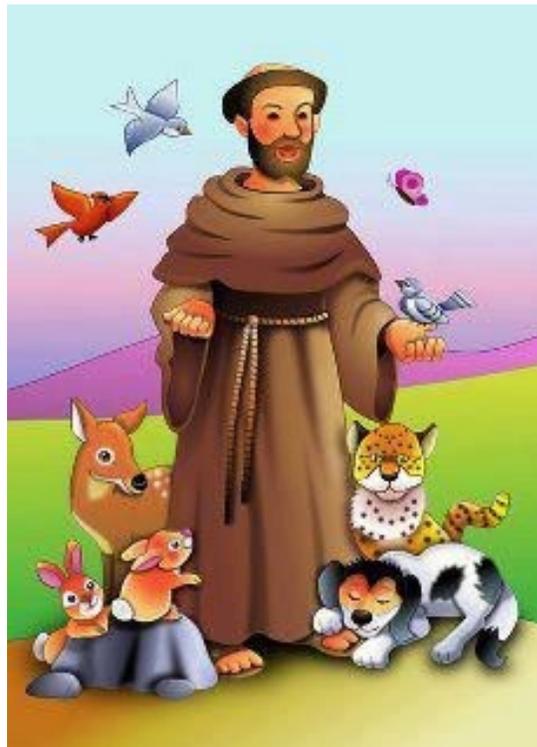
*LOVING GOD AND ONE ANOTHER  
NURTURING FAITHFUL LIVING  
SERVING THOSE IN NEED  
SHARING THE GOSPEL*

## Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 2nd

During Worship at 8:30 and 11:00am

You are invited to bring your four-footed companions, birds, reptiles, and other creatures (or a favorite stuffed animal) to church for a special blessing as we Celebrate Care of Creation and Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.



**FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE**

*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me for ever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?*

*(Psalm 13:1)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

That phrase, *"How long, O Lord?"* was on the lips and hearts of many a psalm-writer, as well as many of the prophets of old. It's a cry of lament, a prayer for deliverance. But their cries were not due to the absence of faith, for why would anyone cry out to someone who isn't there to answer? Surely there must have been an element of trust that one's lament would be heard, even when there was a delay in response. That same psalm ends, as many do, in exultation and praise, *"I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me"* (Psalm 13:6). Still, I would imagine it often would take some time before getting from lament to praise. Certainly more than six verses!

Years ago one of my mentors commented that every church ought to have a wailing wall, much like the wailing wall in the holy city of Jerusalem. This would be a designated place where people would be encouraged to go to lament, a safe place where one can cry out, *"How long, O Lord?"* Laments, like tears, can bring healing and hope and even a change of heart—on our part, or in some cases, even on God's part.

Recently I've been reflecting on just how many cries of lament there are in our midst—both within our faith community and in our world. It seems as though there are so many among us who are hurting, grieving, suffering. In this post-pandemic era, the accumulation of our collective losses, stress and anxiety, and worrying about all that is broken in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones, seems to be wreaking havoc everywhere we turn. If any of this rings true for you—and I'm certain that this is true for many of us—than I hope you can take some consolation in knowing that you are not alone. Scripture reminds us to: keep watch; remain steadfast; abide in Christ; and to share in one another's trials and tribulations as a community.

In times such as this it becomes clear that we all need to be reminded that God's promises are true—that we are beloved and precious in God's sight, that God will never abandon nor forsake us, that there is nothing in all of creation—not even death—that will ever be able to separate any of us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. May all our laments turn to praise as we seek to comfort one another in our sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

In Christ's Abiding Love,  
Pastor Laurie

**FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN**

*"For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" Mk 4:22-23*

Dear Body of Christ at Central,

This year's Chi Rho Lecture series is entitled "Illuminating Justice: How Art and Sacred Text Repair the World." It will be two speakers discussing *The Saint John's Bible*, a handwritten and illuminated Bible. This is a work of art. The art interprets, illustrates, and opens up new meanings in the text. This is the first Chi Rho lecture in a very long time that will be focusing upon art and how art spurs our imagination and engagement with the Bible, with God, and with one another as a community of Christ.

After a difficult parable or teaching, Jesus frequently would use the phrase, "let anyone with ears to hear listen" (e.g. Mt 11:15; Mk 4:9). Jesus recognized that all people have ears, but who can really *hear* the meaning of his words? When he interprets the parable of the sower to the disciples, he points out that different people hear the word of God differently – some hear fully, some hear only partially, and some really do not hear much at all (Mk 4:13-20). They all have ears, but some are able to hear and others are not. What Jesus does not say, though, is that one can't move from one category to the next. We are invited to grow in our hearing. Paul says he provided only milk to the Corinthians rather than solid food when he proclaimed the gospel (1 Cor 3:2) – eventually, they will eat that solid food, but they start with milk.

The Bible is full of rich meaning, in fact *many* meanings, and it challenges and encourages us to look deeply within it to see what meanings come out of it for us. Those many meanings enliven us and speak directly to our heart. Engagement with art and sacred text encourages us to look deeply at the text – to see what deep meanings are present in the text and indeed, in ourselves. It invites us to pause, meditate, and dwell in the text. It encourages us as the Psalmist says to, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps 46:10a).

In our Sunday morning adult education hour between services, beginning October 2, we will be leading up to the Chi Rho Lectures with a series going through one of our speaker's books, Jonathan Homrighausen, *Illuminating Justice: The Ethical Imagination of the Saint John's Bible*. In the class, we will be looking at the way art encourages us to slow down when reading the Bible, look deeply at the text, and see the many meanings that come out of it (you do not need to read the book to join the class). This practice will help us to see new insights into scripture to address new challenges for our current world.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ben

## TOGETHER TUESDAYS CONTINUE!!!

**Join us for Together Tuesdays** for a simple supper starting at 5:15pm, then Music Together, Children's Choir, and Adult Education from 6-6:45pm.

## TOGETHER TUESDAY ADULT FORUM

Join Pastor Ben from 6:00-6:45 after our dinner on Together Tuesdays for our first class series, (Re)Engage! We will be talking about Luther's doctrine of Vocation and how we engage with each other. This will be equal parts introducing us into the theological core of how we care for others, seeing new opportunities COVID has provided us for serving one another, and hearing from each other where you are actively engaged. We are one body of Christ working together for the good of all, let's come together and discover what that looks like for us today.

## SUNDAY EDUCATION HOUR

The adult education hour between services (9:45-10:45) on Sundays in October will be focusing on the research of one of our Chi Rho Lecture speakers, Jonathan Homrighausen. We will be going through his book, *Illuminating Justice: The Ethical Imagination of the Saint John's Bible* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2018). This will be an opportunity to be introduced to The Saint John's Bible, ethical imagination, how art can express our faith, and a general way to get to know one of our Chi Rho speakers before he arrives. It is not necessary to read the book in order to attend the class. Please join us!

## FAMILY CAMP

### Saturday, October 8th at Camp Lutherwood

This is an intergeneration event for members and friends of Central, United, and Emmaus (CUE) to gather for a fun-filled day at camp. There will be time to make new friends and connect with long-time friends, worship together, play games, do crafts, go on a hike or simply relax in this amazingly beautiful camp setting. Plan to join us on Saturday for lunch and/or dinner, but **please RSVP by emailing Crystal Miller ([crystal@unitedlutheran.org](mailto:crystal@unitedlutheran.org))** in order to plan for meals.

**CAMP LUTHERWOOD SPIRIT OF HARVEST  
ONLINE AUCTION  
OCTOBER 5, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.**

**Registration is now open for Camp Lutherwood's online auction.** Sign up today and plan to attend the online auction and participate in the raffle and auctions from the comfort of your couch! When you register you will receive updates about the items you bid on and reminders for the event. We are excited to celebrate with you!

Online bidding will commence for the Spirit of Harvest Auction via livestream at 7pm where we will host a fun program uplifting the Spirit of Harvest that lives year-round at Camp Lutherwood Oregon!

**To register go to: [lutherwoodoregon.org/spirit-of-harvest](https://lutherwoodoregon.org/spirit-of-harvest).**

**CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

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

The Church Council met on September 21, 2022  
Treasurer's report (see page 10)

Action items:

1. Approval of the motion from the campus ministry task force "to authorize a Campus Ministry Committee, whose duties would be listed in the Central Lutheran Church bylaws. Duties are to present recommendations to Council regarding the mission, vision, and management of Lutheran Campus Ministry to University of Oregon and Lane Community College; and to aid in the vitality and success of this ministry."
2. Motion from Personnel and Policy Committee to provide the Silver+ Level A Insurance through Portico to eligible employees with the option of the employee upgrading to Gold+ at no additional cost. (This is what is currently offered, extending the current benefit package through 2023.)
3. Motion from Personnel and Policy Committee to approve a new title and revised job description for Lindsey R. Henriksen based on the additional duties she has taken on. Her new title is Associate Organist/Children's Music and her new duties are Music Together Center Director and Children's Choir Director.

## A New Photo Directory is Coming for Members and Friends of Central Lutheran!

Would you believe it's been 2007 since Central had its last pictorial church directory? Needless to say, a few things have changed since then. Plans are currently underway to provide the congregation with an updated membership directory, including photos.

Central member Kelly Colvin-Smith is taking on this project. In order to ensure we have your current contact information in our church's database, we are asking everyone to fill out a brief questionnaire. You can complete the questionnaire online or by using the QR code (see below). Alternately, you can call Kristi in the church office during the week (541-345-0395) to update your information.

We will also be collecting photos of members and friends of Central for inclusion in the new directory (see samples below). You can either send a high resolution digital file (jpeg or png) of yourself and/or your household via email to [kelly@welcometocentral.org](mailto:kelly@welcometocentral.org). Or if you prefer, someone will be available to take your picture before or after worship in the coming weeks.

Fill out the questionnaire at [bit.ly/clcdirectory](http://bit.ly/clcdirectory) or scan the QR code below.



*Hold your smartphone's camera up to the code, as if you are going to take a picture of it. A link will appear on the phone screen. Touch the link and it should take you directly to the form.*

### Sample Pictures for our NEW Pictorial Directory Please submit yours today!



Gary & Jane Powell



Lori, Honora, Sue  
Mathisen-Lund



Nori Hemphill



Sheila  
Jurasevich



Kelly & Gary Brown

## ENDOWMENT GRANT PROPOSALS WELCOME

**Annual Solicitation for Funding Special Projects:** CLC Endowment Fund 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, **servicing** those in need, and **sharing** the Gospel. Request forms may be obtained in the Narthex, church office, at [www.welcometocentral.org/endowment](http://www.welcometocentral.org/endowment), or from the Endowment Committee. Your proposal must be coordinated through the committee, council, relevant staff person, and/or pastor. Please have your requests delivered to the church office or to the committee by Friday, October 21, 2022. Endowment Fund Committee Members: Lorraine Davis, Cyndy Lane, Doug Martin, Becky Shurson, Kelly Colvin-Smith, Bruce Smolnisky and Jean Clancy (Council Rep).

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY (NOTE: NEW TIME & LOCATION)

The Men's Bible Study is meeting weekly on **Wednesdays at 8am at Elmer's Restaurant (1036 Valley River Way)** Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact Chuck Dietz at [cdietz41@gmail.com](mailto:cdietz41@gmail.com).

## PASTORS BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join Pastor Laurie and Pastor 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 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 at [rb24@aol.com](mailto:rb24@aol.com). Newcomers are always welcome!

**You are invited to view Pastor Lucas Shurson's Ordination into Word & Sacrament Ministry**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpLV0Mb0wSI>

## **ADDRESS CHANGES**

One of the many reasons we need a new directory!  
(see page 6 for more info)

Shannon Allison  
4933 Hunters Glen Dr Eugene 97405

Charlotte Bontrager Phone #541-666-9622

Jeann & Darrell Nichols Phone #541-602-5757

Robert & Carolyn Evans  
Churchill Retirement Assisted Living  
3800 Westleigh St #420 Eugene OR 97405

Lauralie Kallinen (Evan and Louisa)  
1546 Balboa St Eugene 97408

Paul & Linda Dye  
460 W 22nd Ave Eugene 97405

## **PASTORAL ACTS IN SEPTEMBER**

### **Baptisms**

Benjamin Adam Roberts-Garrigus, son of Anna Roberts & Brad Garrigus (9/17/22)

### **Committal Services**

William "Bill" Zink in Central's Columbarium (9/13/22)

Doris L. Kolln in Central's Columbarium (9/16/22)

Arline Fors ashes spread at sea - Depoe Bay (9/18/22)

### **Weddings**

Taylor Anderson & Taylor Raff (9/25/22)

## BOOK CLUB NEWS



**The CLC Book Club** will meet **via ZOOM** on **Monday, October 10, 2022, at 7:00pm** to discuss ***The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel*** by Kati Marton. This book is a political and personal biography of Angela Merkel starting with her life as a Lutheran pastor's daughter who was raised in Soviet-controlled East Germany. Merkel worked as a

research chemist, entered politics after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and became chancellor of Germany and the unofficial leader of the West. She confronted Russian aggression, enacted social policies, and worked to unite an entire continent in an era when countries were becoming more divided. The author describes her relations with leaders such as Putin, Obama, Macron, and Trump. The discussion will be led by Elizabeth Uhlig.

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, Nov. 14, 2022, at 7:00pm** to discuss ***The Ragged Edge of Night*** by Olivia Hawker. The discussion will be led by Gretchen Simas.



## WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Bonnie Betts, Terry Chap, Claudia Hardwick, Dal Haverland, Joy Lathrop, Lori Lund, Doug & Jody Martin.

The family and friends of Tara Pratt (8/31), Peg Emery (9/14), Kristen Ware (9/22), and Tracie Boring (9/24) upon their deaths.

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

## UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES

Memorial Services for Tara Pratt will be held at Central on Friday, October 7th at 1pm and for Peg Emery on Saturday, October 8th at 1pm.

**Central Lutheran Church**  
**Jan-Aug 2022 Income:Expense to Budget - Jan-Aug 2021 Income:Expense Summary**

|                                    | Jan-Aug 2022          | YTD 2022<br>Budget    | Variance to<br>Budget | Jan-Aug 2021          |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Regular Envelopes                  | \$ 352,306.41         | \$ 416,664.00         | \$ (64,357.59)        | \$ 364,199.81         |
| Other Offerings                    | 3,643.74              | 4,000.00              | \$ (356.26)           | \$ 768.10             |
| Holiday Offerings                  | 9,154.00              | 7,450.00              | \$ 1,704.00           | \$ 5,590.00           |
| Other Income                       | 57,658.33             | 15,120.08             | \$ 42,538.25          | \$ 38,233.21          |
| Departmental Income                | 65,685.25             | 82,507.10             | \$ (16,821.85)        | \$ 57,869.57          |
| <b>Total Income</b>                | <b>\$ 488,447.73</b>  | <b>\$ 525,741.18</b>  | <b>\$ (37,293.45)</b> | <b>\$ 466,660.69</b>  |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>              | <b>\$ 531,668.80</b>  | <b>\$ 552,722.56</b>  | <b>\$ (21,053.76)</b> | <b>\$ 506,945.34</b>  |
| <b>YTD Net Income</b>              | <b>\$ (43,221.07)</b> | <b>\$ (26,981.38)</b> | <b>\$ (16,239.69)</b> | <b>\$ (40,284.65)</b> |
| Prorated carryover-Previous Year   | \$ 25,452.00          | \$ 25,452.00          | \$ -                  | \$ 40,889.36          |
| <b>Net after carryover applied</b> | <b>\$ (17,769.07)</b> | <b>\$ (1,529.38)</b>  | <b>\$ (16,239.69)</b> | <b>\$ 604.71</b>      |

**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)



Chi Rho Lectures 2022

# Illuminating Justice:

## *How Art and Sacred Text Repair the World*



Ancient scripture and contemporary art can help us imagine and create a more just world. Our focus is *The Saint John's Bible*, a handwritten, illuminated Bible, commissioned by the Benedictine monks of Saint John's Abbey in Minnesota and completed in 2011 by calligrapher Donald Jackson and a worldwide team of artists. We explore how this Bible's images make ancient texts speak to current problems: ecological ruin, gender injustice, and strife between religions.



**Jonathan Homrighausen** teaches in Religious Studies at the College of William & Mary. He is author of *Planting Letters and Weaving Lines: Calligraphy, The Song of Songs, and The Saint John's Bible* (2022) and *Illuminating Justice: The Ethical Imagination of The Saint John's Bible*

(2018). He is currently writing *Writing Esther, Then and Now*, as his doctoral dissertation in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Duke University.

**Suzanne Moore** is a painter, lettering artist and designer. Spanning 40 years, her manuscript books have presented subjects from the Cherokee writing system to the story of Scheherazade. She melds traditional scribal techniques with contemporary aesthetics. Her work is exhibited widely, and is held in private and public collections internationally. She created numerous illuminations and calligraphic treatments for *The Saint John's Bible*.



*Word Made Flesh and Valley of the Dry Bones*, Donald Jackson, © 2002, 2005, *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Minnesota, USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

### A Weekend of Study with **Jonathan Homrighausen and Suzanne Moore**

November 11–13, 2022

Central Lutheran Church  
1857 Potter St., Eugene, OR

*The Saint John's Bible* and Tikkun Olam: How Art and Sacred Text Repair the World – Jonathan Homrighausen  
Friday, Nov. 11, 7:00 pm

*Huldah and the Power of the Book: Artist and Biblical Scholar in Dialogue*  
Suzanne Moore and Jonathan Homrighausen  
Saturday, Nov. 12, 10:00 am

“You Did Not Return to Me” (Amos 4:9): Earthly and Heavenly Gifts, and Our “Return” – Suzanne Moore  
Saturday, Nov. 12, 7:00 pm

*Word Made Flesh and Words Made Scroll: How The Saint John's Bible Connects Jews and Christians*  
Jonathan Homrighausen  
Sunday, Nov. 13, 9:45 am



Chi Rho Lectures are free and open to all, in person or online via livestream.  
[welcometocentral.org/chi-rho/](http://welcometocentral.org/chi-rho/) • [ChiRhoLectures@gmail.com](mailto:ChiRhoLectures@gmail.com)