

THE CENTRALITE

May 2021



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@
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(206-354-6756)

Vicar Ben Nickodemus
Pastoral Intern

Minister to Christus House
& Campus Ministry
Sister Clare Josef-Maier

Organist/Choirmaster
A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Associate Organist
Lindsey H. Rodgers

Parish Nurse
Sally Diehm

Parish Administrator
Kristi Hoiland

Financial Manager
Cindy Culpepper

Children, Youth & Family
Coordinator Crystal Miller

Church Council

President, Dennis Lindsay
Vice Pres, Larry Sutton
Secretary, Jack Bennett
Treas, Charlotte Bontrager
Matt Haugen
Chris Henry
Lauralie Kallinen
Sonia Macke
Sheri Pyron



***Invite a friend to meet you at Central
for Coffee & Chat Time!***

When: Thursdays 10:00am - noon

Where: Central Lutheran Latte Cart—in the
Terrace Room

What: Coffee time and fellowship with friends,
sitting socially distanced inside the Terrace
Room, Library, or outside on the patio

Why: Because we miss seeing *you!!!*

Dear Friends in Christ,

If you're like me and you like a good murder mystery, author Michael Connelly will keep you turning the pages well into the wee hours of the night and into dawn's early light. My favorite fictional detective, Harry Bosch, has a mission. Bosch often works cold cases, the kind where the victim's cries for justice have seemingly fallen on deaf ears, sometimes for decades, as their file languishes among the unsolved murder cases. Bosch is relentless in his quest to solve these murders because he lives by the motto: ***"Everybody counts or nobody counts."***

Now I confess I don't read these novels unless I'm on vacation and have an uninterrupted block of time to indulge in these page turners otherwise I'd be sleep deprived. I also realize you may be wondering why I would even share this with you, and in the monthly *Centralite*, no less.

But, here's the thing: with everything that's going wrong in the world these days, it seems important for us to be reminded that we have a mission as well. As Easter people and modern-day bearers of the Good News of our Risen Lord and Savior, we have been called to carry on Christ's mission in this broken world we find ourselves living in: To live into the new creation where we strive to love others as God loves us, and whereby we seek to follow the example of Jesus who came not to be served, but to serve.

At its core, I believe this mission is fueled by our God who also has a mantra: ***"Everybody counts! Nobody is excluded!"*** When it comes to the love of our gracious and merciful God, every last, lost, and least one of us counts! I can't help but picture the image the Psalmist paints: it is God "who formed my inward parts, who knit me together in my mother's womb" and it is God "who's eyes beheld my unformed substance and in whose book were written all the days that were formed for me when none of them as yet existed" (Psalm 139:13, 16). Each one of us lovingly knit together in our mother's womb. Each one of us created in God's image. We are God's beloved.

And if that is true for me, it must also be true for you. And if it's true for us, it's true for everyone else as well. ***"Everybody counts or nobody counts."*** Words to live by as we carry on Christ's mission in this world God so loves. *Don't you agree?*

In Christ's Abiding Love,
Pastor Laurie

From the Desk of Vicar Ben

"For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ." Colossians 2:5

Dear Friends,

Paul's letter to the Colossians is unusual in that Paul is writing a letter to a community he did not found himself (the only other time he does this is in Romans). Paul writes this letter in prison (4:3) and has never actually met the community in Colossae in person (2:1). However, as he writes from prison he rejoices because he recognizes that the unity of the church is not dependent upon all being together at one time, but to be connected with others including those we cannot see.

While I write this, Lane County has gone backward and been labeled "high risk" for COVID. Many of us have been able to get vaccinated and many others have not. For some, while they have received their vaccinations, their family and friends have not, so they continue to wait. While it feels like the world is beginning to open back up, it also feels very shut down.

Paul shows that there can be true fellowship even if we can't all gather at one time. He is a real part of the community of Colossae and they are a real part of his ministry. The work of the church continues no matter what our community looks like. Going forward, with or without COVID restrictions, we will have friends and members who are not able to be together in one place with everyone else, yet we will remain one community.

Scholars often think of Paul's connection to churches in networks of friendships. At the end of Colossians, Paul, who has never met this community in Colossae, mentions no fewer than 10 people that he has a personal relationship with in the church (4:7-17). Paul knows and is part of the community because he has friends and coworkers who are connected. I think that model might have something to teach us about our church community—it includes all those who are able to be in worship in church in the geographical space of Central in Eugene, but it also includes all those who are networked to us through friendship. Each of us have particular networks of relationships all over the country and the ministry of Central reaches any number of them. Our concepts of community can embrace that and recognize we can all have real connections to each other. Our fellowship with one another in Christ is greater than the practical limits COVID can restrict.

In Christ,
Vicar Ben

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry News *A shared ministry of Central, United, & Emmaus (CUE)*

In addition to our Zoom Sunday school (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month) we are starting to meet in-person as well. This means all of our children are invited to join us for in-person Sunday school (2nd and 4th Sundays of the month) from 11am-noon at United Lutheran Church. There will be outside space for parents to wait if the weather cooperates otherwise there will be inside space upstairs in the fellowship hall. The Sunday school class will gather downstairs with me (parents are welcome to join the class, we just want to watch our numbers and spacing). I have opened the folding walls to the rooms making our gathering space large and social distancing friendly. We will also utilize the outside space if the weather allows. If you have questions or plan to join us, please email, call or text me so I can be prepared.

Please note that the lessons for Zoom Sunday school on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and in-person on the 2nd and 4th Sundays will be different topics (both related to the monthly theme) so that you can attend both or just one and the kids will not feel lost or bored.

+ SAVE THE DATE +

We are also excited to share with you that plans are underway for Vacation Bible School this summer. Our theme will be **Into the Wilderness** and we will be holding camp at Central on **June 28 - July 2, 2021** from 9am-12:30pm.

As in recent years, Central, United, Emmaus, and Our Redeemer will be co-hosting camp together. We will be following all recommended safety precautions and keeping our kid groups small. Our registration will be online only this year. **You can use the link below to register your family.**

The cost of camp is a suggested donation of \$25 per camper or \$50 for a family. All checks and payments will go to Central Lutheran Church. Please indicate on the check or with the payment that it is for Vacation Bible School. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to **volunteer (we always need volunteers!)** please contact Crystal Miller (crystal@unitedlutheran.org or 503-320-4055).

Click the link to register: <https://forms.gle/ksS4R7bki5pzsFN6A>

**Sponsored by Central, Emmaus,
Our Redeemer, and United Lutheran Churches**
June 28 - July 2, 2021

9am to 12:30pm



**Camp will be held at Central Lutheran Church
1857 Potter street
Eugene, OR 97403**

To register go to:

<https://forms.gle/ksS4R7bki5pzsFN6A>

Suggested Donations of \$25 per camper or \$50 per household.

**If you have questions please contact your Church office or
Crystal Miller at crystal@unitedlutheran.org or 503-320-4055**

Stewards of God's Creation

by Chuck Dietz

We live in a beautiful region of mountains, rivers, forests, and ocean. Many people in other parts of the world have never experienced such beauty. Yet, concerns for the health of our environment still confront us daily, both locally and globally. Mostly driven by increasing world populations, solving environmental problems is vital and complex. As Christians, do we have a responsibility here?

Throughout Scripture God gives direction to people on how to care for the earth (e.g. Gen. 1:28, Ex. 23:10-11). Even more, care for the environment is care for the lives of our neighbors. Climate change impacts poorer nations and people more than those rich enough to mitigate the effects of these changes. River health impacts the quality of drinking water for communities. Pollution threatens the lives of animals and plants which in turn threatens food and water available to many. So how can we Christians respond?

Specific answers to this question are both complex and confusing. Often attempting to solve one environmental issue results in causing others. At times, solutions to environmental problems result in more suffering elsewhere. How can the actions of one individual bring about meaningful solutions? They cannot. We are part of a world community who need to work together if we are to make progress. That does not mean that we, individually, cannot make a difference. As Christians especially, we must try.

What can we do in this chaotic situation? My family has a unique opportunity to contribute. My wife, Arlene, chairs the board of the McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC). The MWC is a group of individuals and representatives of organizations concerned with keeping the McKenzie River and its tributaries clean and with protecting its resources. Members include representatives from EWEB, SUB, school districts, the U.S. National Forest Service, farmers ODFW, river guides, as well as people living along the river. The Council supports and guides projects such as the clean-up of the fire damages from the fires last Fall, replanting of native plants along river and stream banks, and research and development of solutions for reducing toxic run-offs into the watershed. Also, since our farm is located on the McKenzie River just above the water intakes for EWEB, we work actively with EWEB in exploring ways to reduce fertilizer and pesticide run-off. Our hope is that these methods will be useful in other areas also.

Not everyone has the opportunity to directly contribute in these ways. However, each of us can be good stewards of God's creation in many other, sometimes little, but important ways. We can help by following good garden practices as we produce food for the needy (see Central's garden for example), by limiting our carbon footprint, by volunteering and contributing to those organizations making responsible change (see those groups working in disaster relief - ELCA and others). Most of all, we need to keep an open ear to the many suggested solutions and support those that do the most good and hurt our neighbors least.

God calls us to be stewards of our environment by listening, evaluating, supporting, and acting to make God's earth better for everyone throughout the world. Let us pray for discernment, wisdom, and strength to be good stewards of creation.



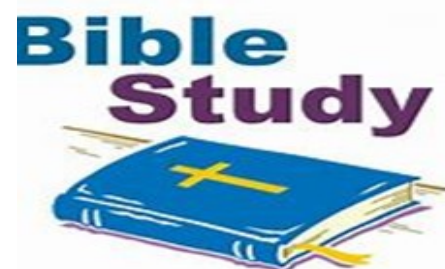
WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Ed Anderson, Sally Bethel, Lue Berg, Terry Chap, Nicole Christie, Carolyn & Bob Evans, Greg Foote, Ilona Johnson, Joy Lathrop, Doug and Jodie Martin, Bob Reed, Sean Wagoner, and Roger White. Also we pray for the friends and family of David Beckstein upon his death and Sue, Lori and Honora Mathisen-Lund upon the death of Sue's mother, Randi Olena Mathisen.

Wednesday Bible Study via Zoom at 11am.

No preparation needed. If you'd like to join Pastor Laurie & Vicar Ben as we study the readings for the upcoming Sunday, email [here](#) for the Zoom link.

Also: The Men's Bible Study is meeting in person (masked & socially distanced) in the Parish Hall on Wednesdays at 1:00pm.



News From Central's Book Club

The CLC Book Club will meet on **Monday, May 10, 2021, at 7pm via Zoom** to discuss *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes. Based on a Great Depression-Era program that was instituted by Eleanor Roosevelt and supported by FDR as part of the New Deal's Works Progress Administration (WPA), this novel is about a group of women in eastern Kentucky who become so-called Pack Horse Librarians.

They ride up to 120 miles a week delivering books and magazines to poor, remote Appalachian communities and hollers. (In 1930, these parts had up to a 31% illiteracy rate.) Along with news, reading lessons and encouragement, they bring books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives. The story also delves into the mining industry in that area and how that impacted communities. With a vague political backdrop, these women are "fiercely feminist." One of the key themes of this book is capable women supporting one another in both their work and personal relationships. From widely different backgrounds and experiences, they make an interesting and very enjoyable read. The discussion will be led by Gretchen Simas.

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 >.

Looking Ahead: **The CLC Book Club** will meet on **Monday, June 14, 2021, at 7pm** via Zoom to discuss *We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The discussion will be led by Ginger Bopp.

Central Lutheran Church
Jan-Mar 2021 Compared to Jan-Mar 2020 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-Mar 2021	Jan-Mar 2020	Difference	2021 Budget
Regular Envelopes	\$ 156,668.92	\$ 151,211.50	\$ 5,457.42	\$ 600,000
Other Offerings	\$ 135.00	\$ 1,447.90	\$ (1,312.90)	\$ 6,000
Holiday Offerings	\$ 1,170.00	\$ 603.00	\$ 567.00	\$ 15,000
Other Income	\$ 5,124.91	\$ 9,550.58	\$ (4,425.67)	\$ 25,471
Departmental Income	\$ 19,776.31	\$ 19,409.43	\$ 366.88	\$ 95,220
Total Income	\$ 182,875.14	\$ 182,222.41	\$ 652.73	\$ 741,691
Total Expenses	\$ 187,775.73	\$ 171,130.35	\$ 16,645.38	\$ 785,489
YTD Net Income	\$ (4,900.59)	\$ 11,092.06	\$ (15,992.65)	\$ (43,798)
Carryover 2019 Net: Quarter		\$ 3,305.00		
Carryover 2020 Net: Quarter/Year	\$ 15,333.50			\$ 61,334.00
Net after carryover	\$ 10,432.91	\$ 14,397.06	\$ (3,964.15)	\$ 17,536.00



CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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