

# THE CENTRALITE

Jan/Feb 2022



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN  
CHRIST CONGREGATION

## Central's Staff

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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  
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*

Central Lutheran Church voted to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation on May 6, 2009 — nearly 13 years ago! This decision affirmed the congregation's desire to be a place of welcome and full inclusion for LGBTQIA+ people.

Join us to celebrate **RIC Sunday** on February 6th. On the following Tuesday (February 8th), we'll launch a **4-class series via Zoom** examining the new questions, new challenges, and new opportunities of being Reconciling in Christ in 2022. This series, co-facilitated by Deacon Clare and Vicar Ben, is designed to equip and empower us in our RIC identity and engage updated RIC Partner Commitments.

Have you ever wanted to learn more about what it means for Central to be a Reconciling in Christ community? Do you have questions about the evolving world we live in? This series intends to offer a safe and supportive community to engage in questions and to hear one another's stories. All are welcome!



*"Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it."  
(1 Cor. 12:27)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

First, for those of you who have been paying attention, let me just say... no, you didn't miss the January edition of the Centralite. It was not something we intentionally planned, that is to say, we didn't intend NOT to send it out. Rather, in the midst of this rather strange time we find ourselves living in, or more poignantly, through, we found the days following Christmas and leading up to Epiphany were fraught with inclement weather and far too many other pressing matters. In other words, I must confess January sort of got away from us. Or, at least it got away from me. As I made my way downhill from my home to church on the 26th of December (also known as the 2nd day of Christmas), it was clear to me that no one in their right mind should be driving on the roads of Eugene. You may recall the white Christmas many of us were dreaming of arrived a wee bit late! In any case, given the treacherous roads, I immediately called Lindsey (ElRay had already taken off for some much deserved post-Advent/Christmas R&R) to say, "stay home." Lindsey, in turn, called the cantors, while I let our tech guy, Thomas know that he should stay home as well. Then we sent out a mass email saying that we were switching from livestream to Zoom that Sunday.

To my surprise, nine people actually managed to make their way to church that morning (mostly of whom walked) and another 38 worshiped with us on Zoom. Among those in person was Gary Powell, who is not only a gifted retired pastor, but an accomplished pianist as well. And so we were still able to sing some of our cherished carols and Vicar Ben offered a wonderful homily reminding us of the Word made flesh who dwells among us. My point is: that's how 2021 ended and 2022 began. After two beautiful traditional Christmas Eve services with all the bells and whistles (including brass, bells, strings, vocalists, crucifer, torch bearers, acolytes, readers, communion servers, etc.) we had a wintry snowstorm that caused us to pause. In many ways the ending of 2021 serves as an example of what has become our "new normal." These past couple of years we have become quite adept at adjusting and adapting to this ever changing and challenging time we find ourselves living in. And by the grace of God, through it all, we have remained connected to God and to one another as the living, breathing, members—both individually and collectively—of the body of Christ, and of Christ's church, wherever we happen to find ourselves, at home, away from home, and every place in-between. As we enter this new year, I thank God for the gift you are and the gifts you bring to this cherished and beloved part of Christ's body we call Central Lutheran Church.

In Christ's Abiding Love,  
+Pastor Laurie

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." John 1:14*

We have concluded our Christmas season with Epiphany on January 6 and moved into the season "after Epiphany." Epiphany is a Greek word meaning literally "shining forth" (less literally "appearing"). It is a time where we recognize Christ's glory. Glory is a term we frequently use but far too infrequently pause to ask what it is. Glory, in the Old Testament, is that which emanates from the presence of God. To emanate is to "shine forth" and glory is most often depicted with the language of something like a great light shining forth. We frequently hear of the glory of the Lord which covers over people, or fills the temple. Therefore, when we talk about the glory of the Lord coming forth from Jesus we are recognize Jesus as divine. The divine nature of Jesus therefore "shines forth" in the world.

The time after the day of Epiphany on Jan 6 is sometimes called the "Season of Epiphany" or far more frequently – and how the ELCA currently designates it – the "Sundays after Epiphany." The reason we think of this in terms of the "Sundays after Epiphany" is that we try to think of this period as much as "ordinary time" as we do a special season. What makes this ordinary time is that we always are celebrating the revelation of God's glory among us – that Jesus is God with us in this space and time. Our ordinary time is a celebration of God's mighty acts in the world, but the everyday world, the world we live in day by day.

Those mighty acts in the world shine forth through all of us who are children of God. Jesus is embodied in us as we become Christ to one another in our love and care to one another. We too frequently think of being the masks of God only when we do the extraordinary deeds – what we often call "service" to others which we too frequently define as separate from our normal activities. But the glory of the Lord shines forth from us in the very ordinary aspects of our lives. It appears in the caring for our families, the grace we show in our interactions we have in the supermarket, the relationship we have in our employment – what we call the doctrine of vocation. As Paul says, "whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31).

Jesus becoming human empowers what it means to be human. The glory of the Lord shines forth – in us and through us in the very human activities we participate in. We will be doing that this month in our ministries in the church and all of our interactions we have every day in our lives. In all of that, we are being Christ to one another.

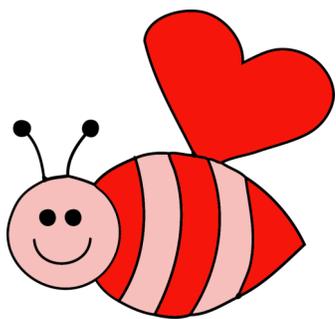
In Christ's love,  
Vicar Ben



### Can you sew? The Central Lutheran Quilters need your help!

The Central Lutheran Quilters are soliciting help from members and friends who can sew to help create Quilt tops. Tops are made of 12 1/2" squares sewed together using generous 1/4" seams. Arrangements are made of 5 squares across and 7 squares down so the squares are in an "eye-pleasing" arrangement (preferably no like squares adjacent to each other) for the completed top measuring 60" by 80" or a little more. We have lots of quilt squares already cut and bundled together that need to be stitched, something sewers are able to do from home. Once the squares are sewn together, they can be returned to church where our Quilters will complete the task.

Please contact Jill Lietkde (541-505-8309) if you can help. Thank you! These mission quilts are all sent to Lutheran World Relief, and we are grateful to all who make it possible.



#### **Valentine's Day Fun!**

**Saturday, February 12th at 10am to 3pm -**

#### **Kids Valentine's and Pre-Lent Party**

All kids are invited to a party at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 1250 W 18th, to celebrate Valentine's Day and do some Pre-Lent preparations. Our time together will include crafts, games, Lenten exploration, and so much fun! While we hope this presents an opportunity for parents to take a Valentine's

break yourselves, we also would love some parent and teen volunteers. Please let Crystal know if you or your teen are able to help with this adventure. RSVP by Sunday, February 6th.



The Annual Meeting of the Camp Lutherwood Association, of which Central Lutheran is a founding member, will be held Saturday, February 5, 2022 from 9:30am-11:00am on Zoom. To RSVP, email [office@lutherwoodoregon.org](mailto:office@lutherwoodoregon.org) or call 541-998-6444. We are blessed to have Debra Knebel currently serving on the Camp Lutherwood Board.

Can't make the meeting, but wish you could help? Camp Lutherwood welcomes volunteers year-round! Call ahead and schedule a day and time to come to camp to work on a variety of projects led by camp's Director of Operations. Projects often include: chopping wood, landscaping, trail work, and light construction projects.

For Summer camping opportunities, and ways to volunteer, visit the website: [Home | Camp Lutherwood Oregon](#)



 Debra Jackson Knebel, Central Lutheran Church; Eugene

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

The CLC Book Club will meet via ZOOM on Monday, Feb. 14, 2022, at 7:00pm to discuss a pair of short books by Julie Otsuka: The Buddha in the Attic and When the Emperor Was Divine. Both are fiction and cover the history of Japanese women in the U.S. in the first half of the 20th century. Together they provide context to our recent history. Elizabeth Uhlig will lead the discussion.



The Buddha in the Attic tells the story of young women brought from Japan to San Francisco as 'picture brides' in the early 1900s. Otsuka traces the lives of these women: from their journey by boat from Japan, arrival in San Francisco, meeting their husbands and their first nights as new wives, raising children who would reject their culture and language, the arrival of WWII, losing their homes, and moving to the internment camps. Otsuka compresses the experiences of many women into this novel.

When the Emperor was Divine tells the story of a woman living in Berkeley, CA, in 1942 who sees a sign in a window and returns home to begin packing her family's possessions. Like thousands of other Japanese Americans, she has been classified as an enemy alien and will be sent to an internment camp in Utah. Otsuka writes in five sections about the evacuation order, the train trip to Utah, life in the concentration camp, returning to Berkeley, and the impact on her husband who spent the war in prison.

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 on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 7:00pm to discuss Grace Will Lead Us Home: The Charleston Church Massacre and the Hard, Inspiring Journey to Forgiveness by Jennifer Berry Hawes.



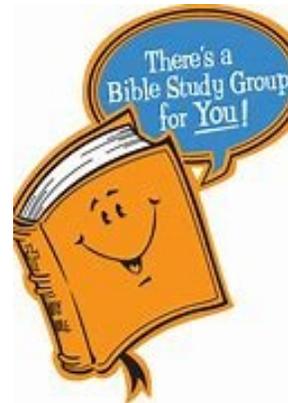
## WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Lue Berg, Terry Chap, Carolyn & Bob Evans, Linnea Embleton, Arline Fors, Ilona Johnson, Keith Jurasevich, Joy Lathrop, Doug and Jody Martin, Ellen Rasmussen, Gretchen Simas, Shirley Watson, Genevieve Youngquist; and those who mourn, especially the family and friends of former member, Ted Scherer who died November 25.

Click [here](#) to submit a prayer request.

## NURTURE FAITHFUL LIVING

...by diving into the word of God  
with a few of your friends from Central



## 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.

## 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).

## Central Lutheran Church

### Jan-Dec 2021 Compared to Jan-Dec 2020 Income:Expense Summary

|   | Jan-Dec 2021          | Jan-Dec 2020         | Difference           |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Regular Envelopes                       | \$ 542,314.83         | \$ 565,372.81        | \$ (23,057.98)       |
| Other Offerings                         | 1,795.08              | \$ 2,933.90          | \$ (1,138.82)        |
| Holiday Offerings                       | 31,800.00             | \$ 7,793.00          | \$ 24,007.00         |
| Other Income                            | 95,370.19             | \$ 27,859.72         | \$ 67,510.47         |
| Departmental Income                     | 84,378.21             | \$ 153,667.36        | \$ (69,289.15)       |
|   |                       |                      |                      |
| <b>Total Income</b>                     | <b>\$ 755,658.31</b>  | <b>\$ 757,626.79</b> | <b>\$ (1,968.48)</b> |
|   |                       |                      |                      |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                   | <b>\$ 778,814.70</b>  | <b>\$ 696,290.65</b> | <b>\$ 82,524.05</b>  |
|   |                       |                      |                      |
| <b>YTD Net Income</b>                   | <b>\$ (23,156.39)</b> | <b>\$ 61,336.14</b>  | <b>\$ 38,179.75</b>  |
|   |                       |                      |                      |
| <b>Prorated carryover-Previous Year</b> | <b>\$ 61,334.00</b>   | <b>\$ 13,220.00</b>  | <b>\$ 48,114.00</b>  |
|   |                       |                      |                      |
| <b>Net after carryover applied</b>      | <b>\$ 38,177.61</b>   | <b>\$ 74,556.14</b>  | <b>\$ 36,378.53</b>  |



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