

March
2024



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN
CHRIST CONGREGATION

THE CENTRALITE

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
Todd Shorack

Church Council

President, Jean Clancey
Vice Pres, Debbie Knebel
Secretary, Jack Bennett
Treas, Brent Moeller
Teri Gillis
Matt Haugen
Howard Kallinen
Jill Liedtke
Todd Shorack
Chuck Swenson

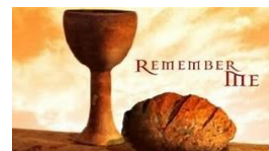
WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY, March 24
8:30am and 11:00am
Jesus' triumphant entry
into Jerusalem

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28

7:30pm
Jesus shares his last meal
with his disciples



GOOD FRIDAY, March 29

Noon & 7:30pm
Jesus is crucified

EASTER SUNDAY, March 31

Festival Worship at 8:30am & 11
The Resurrection of Our Lord

(with an Easter Egg Hunt for all
of our children at 10:15am)



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I want to begin by sharing my heartfelt thanks for your prayers, cards, and well-wishes following my sudden and unexpected gall bladder surgery! Who knew when we settled on the Lenten topic, *"Journeying with God through our Wilderness"* that I'd have such a wilderness experience of my own. Yet, just as our gracious and merciful God provided for the Israelites during their wilderness wanderings, so too, God provided for me. As always, I am humbled and blessed by the love and support of this faith community!

Now, onward we must go, as soon, and very soon, we will hear the shouts of people who cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna, to the Son of David!"

And, as we draw ever closer to the cross of Christ, once again we will be reminded of the meal Jesus shared with his disciples on the night in which he was betrayed. How he took bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And in the same manner, after supper, how he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then, with heavy hearts, as our faith ancestors have done before us, and as we ourselves continue to do each year, we'll recall Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, death, and burial.

And finally, we'll pull out all the stops to hear the great and glorious good news that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead as together we proclaim:

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

Remember: Journeying with God through our Wilderness—then and now—is about fully trusting that God is with us from the cradle to the cross, from darkness to light, from beginning to end, and into a future filled with resurrection hope and everlasting promise. Thanks be to God!

In Christ's Abiding Love,
Pastor Laurie

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN

“But [the young man dressed in white] said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.’” Mark 16:6

Dear family of God at Central,

The passage above is from the resurrection account in the Gospel of Mark – when the women arrive at the tomb with spices in order to anoint Jesus’ body. Instead of finding his body, they are greeted by a young man dressed in white who declares that Jesus is not there but instead has been raised from the dead and is going ahead of them into Galilee. The women were alarmed and the young man in white directs them: “Look, there is the place they laid him.”

In our Sunday morning adult education time, we have been spending time going through the entire Gospel of Mark systematically. As we have done so, we are invited throughout to “look” at who this Jesus is and what he is doing. We do that in a variety of ways. We “look” at Jesus throughout the entire Gospel and see the way he takes us on a journey from his early works of power, predicting his death and resurrection, his triumphal entry into the Jerusalem, his Last Supper with the disciples, his arrest and crucifixion, and his resurrection. These coming weeks we are invited to “look” in our worship services as we look forward to the end of the season of Lent where we have been dwelling “in our wilderness” in our midweek series and on into Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

These are some of the places we are invited to “look” and see who Jesus is in our lives. But they are not the only ones. We also are invited to “look” and see Jesus at work around us and see the way Christ is alive and active in our community. It shows up every time our mission is enacted. We are the hands and feet of Jesus by loving God and one another; nurturing faithful living; serving those in need; and sharing the Gospel.

We are a resurrection people! We look and see the effect of God’s love, grace, and forgiveness around us every day. I hope you will join us in worship, in fellowship, and in prayer as we continue in our Lenten journey and on into Holy Week.

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Ben

CALLING ALL GARDENERS AND GARDENER WANNA-BEES



Would you, or someone you know be interested in taking on a section of Central's garden this Spring? We are looking for individuals, families, or friend groups who may be interested in planting and harvesting Central's Community Garden on the corner of our church property at 18th & University Ave. You would be able to stake a claim to one or more designated 8-foot plots to plant and harvest fruits and vegetables for your personal consumption (or you may choose to donate your bounty to the Student Food Party housed at Grace Lutheran Church or FOOD for Lane County. If interested, contact the Church office and we'll be sure to get you started on your very own Spring/Summer Gardening adventure. (Note: There is an automated water system and plenty of tools in the shed to get started.)

OPPORTUNITES TO STUDY THE WORD...

Sunday morning Education Hour with Pastor Ben between services (9:45-10:45am) in the Library.

Men's Bible Study meets in person for breakfast at the Springs (1282 Goodpasture Island Rd.) on Wednesdays at 8:00am

Pastor's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 11am where we study the gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday.

The Women's Bible Study group continues to meet via Zoom on Thursday mornings at 11am.

The Zoom links for these groups is provided in "Central's Weekly Events" or by contacting Kristi (info@welcometocentral.org).



BOOK CLUB NEWS

The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 7:00pm to discuss ***The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*** by J. Drew Lanham. This book, written in 2016, is a memoir by ornithologist J. Drew Lanham, who writes about being an African-American birder. He grew up in rural South Carolina and writes about his family (his grandmother, his parents who were teachers), the community, and church, and how as a child he fell in love with the natural world around him. This led to degrees in biology and a PHD in forest resources, and to his academic career teaching at Clemson University. One of the chapters in the book is "Birding While Black." *The Home Place* is a remarkable meditation on nature and belonging, at once a deeply moving memoir and riveting exploration of the contradictions of Black identity in the rural South. The discussion will be led by Elizabeth Uhlig.

New members are always welcome! If you have questions or would like to be on the CLC Book Club email list, please email Betsy Berg < rb24berg@aol.com >. The repeating ZOOM link is sent out before each meeting and appears in the church email, "Central Lutheran Weekly Events."

WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS



Terry Chap, Lehua DeLong (granddaughter of Eunice & Ron Fenchak), Chuck Dietz, Rhea Forum (sister of Alice Rotchstein), Dal & Gaye Haverland, Doug & Jody Martin, Morgan McCrory, Joanne Miksis, Gretchen & Jeff Simas.

Prayers of comfort and support for the families of Dan Bates and Darrell Nichols upon their deaths.

Click here to submit a prayer request. Or, email: prayers@welcometocentral.org.

BABY SHOWER



Pastor Ben and Holly are growing their family and we are ready to celebrate! They have announced that they are expecting a boy in mid-April! Join us as we celebrate with Holly & Ben (and Iris!) on **Saturday, March 16th at 1pm** in the Parish Hall. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

Suggested gift items include:

- Gift cards to Target or Amazon
- Disposable diapers - size 1 and above
- Clothes for 3 months and up
- Board or cloth books

JOIN US FOR "MIDWEEK COFFEE HOUR"

on the 2nd Wednesday
of the month—
March 13 from 1:00-2:00pm
in the Terrace Room

(Note: Due to Holy Week there will not be a mid-week coffee hour on the 4th Wednesday in March)



CENTRAL LUTHERAN FOUNDATION ANNUAL GIFTING

The Central Lutheran Foundation is now soliciting applications for its annual gifting. The Foundation makes grants locally, nationally, and internationally to Lutheran Organizations, Christian organizations, and non-profits. Applications are in the church office, or you may contact Brent Moeller bmoeller17@yahoo.com with questions.

Highlights from Church Council

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

The Church Council met on January 17, 2024
Treasurer's Report: See page 8

Action Items:

The Council recommended the Mission and Ministry Budget for 2024 be sent to the Congregation for approval at the Semi-Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024. In addition, Council granted further exploration of the possibility of sharing a Luther Seminary intern for 2024-2025 with United Lutheran Church.

Explanation: United Lutheran contacted Central to ask if we would have interest in sharing an intern. Applications are due the end of January and assignments are made in late Spring. If approved, the intern would likely arrive in late August or early September of 2024. However, there would still be time to withdraw from the process if it is determined this is not something we are able to do. The cost to Central is projected to be \$24,000, though if Luther House is deemed suitable and safe, the intern could live on site, thereby offsetting a large portion of Central's financial share. Council members agreed that sponsoring an intern is in keeping with our focus on outreach and affirmed Pastor Laurie could move forward with the next steps of the process with Pastor Eric Dull at United Lutheran.

Council also approved Camp Lutherwood's request for the congregation to participate in the camp's capital campaign for the rebuilding of the lodge to house an adult retreat site at the Camp. The kickoff of this campaign will begin with a presentation from Lutherwood on Sunday, April 14 and the campaign will continue for several subsequent weeks.

Central Lutheran Church
January 2024 Income:Expense to Budget - January 2023 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-2024	YTD 2024 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-2023
Regular Envelopes	\$ 73,061.33	\$ 49,500.00	\$ 23,561.33	\$ 65,986.38
Other Offerings	\$ 502.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (148.00)	\$ 323.30
Holiday Offerings	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 13,933.76	\$ 2,476.89	\$ 11,456.87	\$ 2,210.79
Departmental Income	\$ 4,728.78	\$ 12,570.61	\$ (7,841.83)	\$ 3,500.10
Total Income	\$ 92,275.87	\$ 65,197.50	\$ 27,078.37	\$ 72,020.57
Total Expenses	\$ 67,529.03	\$ 78,009.17	\$ (10,480.14)	\$ 81,332.83
YTD Net Income	\$ 24,746.84	\$ (12,811.67)	\$ 37,558.51	\$ (9,312.26)
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 4,746.17	\$ 4,746.17	\$ -	\$ 2,756.25
Net after carryover applied	\$ 20,000.67	\$ (8,065.50)	\$ 37,558.51	\$ (6,556.01)



Address change

Please make these changes in your Directory:

Friedl Bell
 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd #214 97401

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

WEBSITE: WWW.WELCOMETOCENTRAL.ORG