

# THE CENTRALITE

August 2022



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  
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(206-354-6756)

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

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

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

## Important Upcoming Events highlighted in this issue

Pictorial Directory Project (see p. 2 for details)

August 13: Pride in the Park (see p. 7 for details)

August 23: Blood Drive at Central (see p. 4 for details)

## Plans currently underway for a robust Fall

September 11: Back to School Blessing during worship at  
8:30am (in the Sanctuary) and 11am (at the Garden)

September 13: Together Tuesdays Resume with a shared meal,  
plus something for all ages—Music Together, Children's Choir,  
Youth Activities, Adult Education

September 14: Chorale Rehearsals Resume

September 18: (Re)Engage! A Stewardship Event for all ages  
to highlight our vocation & ministries at Central, in the  
community, and in the world

September 25: Sunday morning Education Hour (9:45-10:45am  
between worship services

October 2: Blessing of the Animals during worship

October 7-9: Family Camp at Camp Lutherwood

October 30: Reformation Sunday & Distribution of Bibles for  
children & youth

November 1: All Saints Day Service in the Memorial Courtyard

November 6: Requiem Mass at 8:30am and 11am

November 11-13: Chi Rho Lecture Series

November 20: Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's time to smile and say, "*cheese!*" I know that sounds "cheesy," but it's been far too long since Central has put together a pictorial directory, so thanks to Kelly Colvin-Smith who's spearheading this project, that's exactly what we're planning to do! However, instead of going through a professional company to take our pictures, you will be invited to submit a recent picture of yourself, and if applicable your entire household, for inclusion in what will be our first attempt at a directory produced "in-house." There will be multiple steps to accomplish this task, but with today's technology we anticipate this alternative will allow us to provide a current pictorial directory as well as to keep it up-to-date more easily.

The first step will be for friends and members of Central to complete a survey to make sure we have the most current and updated information for your household. While you can opt out of having this information published, providing it will help us ensure your contact information is correct, including cell phone and email addresses, as well as asking for your preferred method of contact. This survey will be available in several ways: online through a secure link, by calling the church office and answering a few questions over the phone, or if requested, through the mail. We are confident most of you will be able to take advantage of one of the aforementioned ways, but if we don't hear from you, you can be sure you will be hearing from us.

The second step, which will come soon after the first, will be for you to submit a current photograph of yourself and your household, either by sending it to us via email ([info@welcometocentral.org](mailto:info@welcometocentral.org)), dropping it by the office to have it scanned, having your picture taken at church (dates/times to be announced), or by having someone from Central come to your home to take your picture. Our goal is to include everyone!

The third step will be for all of us to wait patiently for the finished product. We cannot predict just how long this will take, but we hope it can be accomplished by the end of the calendar year at the very latest. (Trust me: I know from past experience that professional companies can take up to a year before the final product is in the hands of members. Besides that, no one will attempt to sell you an 8x10 glossy! No offense intended.)

I hope you will help us successfully complete this project so that we can continue to get to know the many faces that make up the community of faith here at Central. Together we are truly blessed—blessed to be a blessing! And I give thanks to God for each and everyone of you, and the rich history we share as members of Christ's body—past, present, and future!

In Christ's Abiding Love,  
+Pastor Laurie

P.S. This project has been fully funded thanks to Central's Endowment Fund. Stay tuned for more details to come.

*"Come to me all, all you who that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28*

Dear friends and members of Central,

We continue our "Season of Creation" this summer at Central. This season began with several dedicated services to the topic of creation that we have interspersed into our season "After Pentecost" this summer. I would like to focus on one of these services – the upcoming service on wildfires and natural disasters. This will be a service of lament and grief. The more I talk with people about our world, the more I hear our collective grief over what has been lost. The wildfires that seemingly continue to rage across the American West have struck so many of us. Most remember well the terrible fires that came through Oregon in 2020, specifically the Holiday Farm fire. At one point, that fire was burning 3 acres per second. Years of growth in our forests were destroyed in an instant. People's homes were lost. Some lost their lives. Communities have had to work together to try and regroup from the devastation. What's more, these fires seem to be annually recurring. There have been further devastations in the natural disasters throughout the country.

When we talk about creation, care for creation, wildfires, and natural disasters, we can too easily get into an ideological debate about what needs to be done about them. That might be very true, but there is something more basic to our Spiritual health after these events. We see with our eyes what is lost before us. We need to be able to grieve that loss. The term "ecological grief" is starting to be used to discuss this phenomenon. Sometimes faced with challenging social settings, we can turn to ideology and argument too quickly. Rather than doing that, we will pause and set one Sunday aside for lament and grief. There is a new category of grief called "ecological grief" – recognizing that this phenomenon of needing to take the time to recognize what has been lost is spiritually and emotionally healthy for us.

This kind of grief is a collective grief. We have all lost some of the beauty of this earth and we are awoken to the tenuous nature of our lives on this planet. However, as followers of Christ, grief is not wallowing in hopelessness, but recognizing that at the same moment we cry out "how long, O Lord," we also with the Psalmist say, "Your steadfast love endures forever." In the passage above, Jesus assures all those who are weary and heavy laden that he will provide rest. That rest does not indicate that there will be no more natural disasters, but that there is a peace that the world cannot give. There is a hope in our God who is not done with us yet. While the whole creation might be groaning in pain at present, Christ is with us and all things are rectified in him as the new creation. Therein lies our hope. And as Paul says, "in hope we were saved" (Romans 8:24a). We take time to grieve to recognize who we are and who God is in our lives.

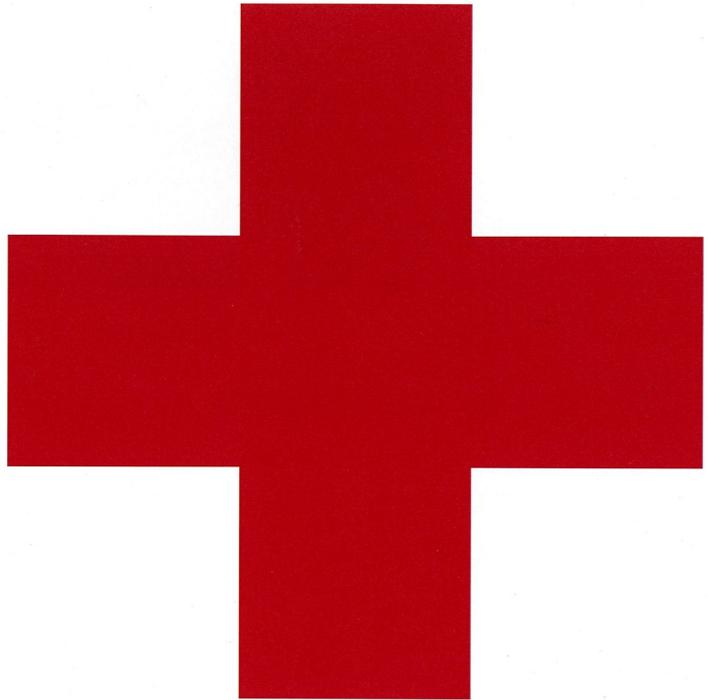
In our service we will recognize that our world is in pain, and we as part of that world are also in pain. Yet we also rejoice that resurrection life springs forth from death and we hold onto life, and life abundantly.

Thanks be to God,  
Pastor Ben

*Give blood.*

Every 2 seconds someone  
in the U.S. needs blood.

**American Red Cross**



**Blood Drive**  
**Central Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall  
1857 Potter Street  
Eugene, OR 97403

**Tuesday, August 23, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code:  
centrallutheraneugene or call Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. If you are an eligible type O,  
B- or A- donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most  
commonly transfused blood component.



Scan to be directed to  
RapidPass®



**Download the Blood Donor App today. Get your digital  
donor card, schedule your next appointment, track your  
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your donation on its way to a hospital.**



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an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

## Book Club News



The CLC Book Club will meet via ZOOM on **Monday, September 12, 2022, at 7:00pm** to discuss *To Rescue the Republic: Ulysses S. Grant, the Fragile Union, and the Crisis of 1876* by Bret Baier and Catherine Whitney. This book truly casts Grant as the one who championed Lincoln's cause. It covers his battlefield successes, reconstruction and the electoral crisis that nearly refractured the union. He was bold in his advancing the Reconstruction agenda and countering the KKK. He can be most remembered as preserving the Union in the 1876 election where the winner was unclear. A humble man, one leaning toward abolition who freed his slave gifted him by his father-in-law, a man who has been greatly downplayed in history by 'southern' historians, and one to whom we owe the existence of our current United States. Rarely is 'history' a captivating read, but this one is a must for our times. The discussion will be led by Arlene Dietz.

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, Oct. 10, 2022, at 7:00pm to discuss *The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel* by Kati Marton. The discussion will be led by Elizabeth Uhlig.

## A Word of Thanks from the Vettrus Family

Sarah Vettrus and her family want to thank Centralites and University friends for the wonderful surprise 50th birthday party on Sat., July 9th. On such a busy day at Central, thank you to Pastor Laurie, and special thanks to Lorraine Davis and Carol Rydbom for planning the mini Duck Tailgate party. It was perfect for Sarah!! Having her Minnesota uncles, Mike, Jeff, and family here made it even more special. Our family continues to be grateful for these long years of love and support for Sarah.



## Save the Date for CUE Family Camp October 7-9 at Camp Lutherwood

Plans are underway for our second annual Family Camp for members and friends of Central, United, and Emmaus (CUE) to gather for a weekend of connecting with new friends and long-time friends with for worship, games, crafts, intergenerational activities, hikes, and relaxing in this amazingly beautiful camp setting. Mark your calendars and join us for all or part of the weekend. More details coming soon.



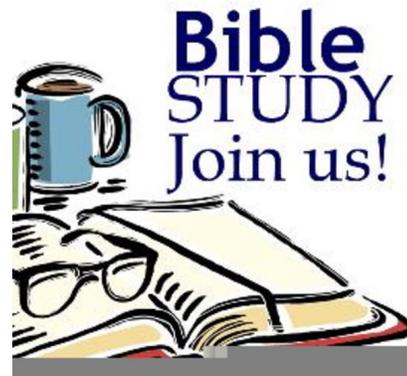
## WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Terry Chap, Carolyn & Bob Evans, Cynthia Flores, Arline Fors, Claudia Hardwick, Joy Lathrop, Delores Lewis, Doug & Jody Martin, Merrily Sutton; Christine Prescott upon the death of her husband, Dave; and the family and friends of Tom Brady whose service will be held at Central on August 6th at 2pm.

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

## NURTURE FAITHFUL LIVING

...by diving into the word of God



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

Over the summer the Men's Bible Study will be meeting weekly on **Wednesdays at 1pm at the Dietz' home (33632 McKenzie View Dr.)** 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 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 meets weekly on **Thursdays at 11am** on Zoom using the Bible study guides found in the ELCA's *Gather Magazine*. For more information contact Arlene Dietz at [dietzal@aol.com](mailto:dietzal@aol.com).

**It's Time to (Re)Engage!  
Sunday, September 18th  
9:45-10:45am  
Parish Hall**

This year, we will be (re)engaging together! In Fall, many of our ministries that have been on hiatus will be starting back up – some in rather new ways. The last few years have been a challenge. Learning to live with the pandemic forced us inside, away from friends and family, and even away from church. It has been especially hard on young families and teens. For many, those church activities and worship that did happen were mostly virtual. More and more people are yearning for the opportunity to come together again in community and in new ways. It's time to take a look at our new life, both away from and within our church community. How can we (re)engage our ministries and relationships? How can we help those who have suffered? Will our ministry teams and activities look the same as before? What needs to change? How can you be involved?

**Save the date.** The Stewardship Committee invites you to join us to dream together on how we move forward. We will meet in the Parish Hall on September 18th between services. Plan to be there! Note: There will be something for all ages, not just adults.

**PRIDE IN THE PARK  
August 13th  
at Alton Baker Park**



On Saturday, August 13th, Central, United, and Emmaus will host our second annual "CUE" booth at Eugene-Springfield's Pride in the Park. Members from all three of Eugene's "Reconciling In Christ" ELCA congregations will join the festival to celebrate and support LGBTQ+ siblings in faith as well as the larger community. In addition to sharing information about our welcoming congregations, we'll have temporary tattoos, bubbles, "encouraging words" postcards, and a rainbow affirmation wheel to remind everyone present of God's unconditional love. If you'll be at the event, please swing by and say hello!

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING JULY 20, 2022**

Approval of the Finance Committee's recommendation to streamline the financial accounting of Central. Motion to approve the transfer of funds held in Special Projects, which have not been used in the past three years and which are no longer needed for their original purpose, be transferred to the General Fund. As these ministry needs arise in the future they will be funded through the General Fund.

Approval of the Finance Committee's recommendation to donate the church van to Camp Lutherwood, or a ministry related non-profit, freeing up the cost of insurance and maintenance. Rationale: It would be more cost effective for the church to rent a vehicle when needed rather than having the liability and upkeep of the van which is rarely used.

Pastor Ben's housing allowance (for tax purposes) and church credit card were approved.

Approval of Morgan Mckenna McCrory as a confirmed member of Central Lutheran. Her confirmation took place on Sunday, July 24th.

Pastor Laurie will be on vacation from July 28-Aug 6.

## Central Lutheran Church

### Jan-June 2022 Income:Expense to Budget - Jan-June 2021 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-June 2022	YTD 2022 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-June 2021
Regular Envelopes	\$ 268,781.41	\$ 312,500.00	\$ (43,718.59)	\$ 280,513.31
Other Offerings	2,633.57	3,000.00	\$ (366.43)	\$ 427.10
Holiday Offerings	9,154.00	7,500.00	\$ 1,654.00	\$ 5,590.00
Other Income	11,288.75	11,327.50	\$ (38.75)	\$ 13,679.83
Departmental Income	55,239.93	60,565.00	\$ (5,325.07)	\$ 37,291.21
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 347,097.66</b>	<b>\$ 394,892.50</b>	<b>\$ (47,794.84)</b>	<b>\$ 337,501.45</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 407,715.63</b>	<b>\$ 413,981.50</b>	<b>\$ (6,265.87)</b>	<b>\$ 382,016.49</b>
<b>YTD Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (60,617.97)</b>	<b>\$ (19,089.00)</b>	<b>\$ (41,528.97)</b>	<b>\$ (44,515.04)</b>
Prorated carryover- Previous Year	\$ 19,089.00	\$ 19,089.00	\$ -	\$ 30,667.02
<b>Net after carryover applied</b>	<b>\$ (41,528.97)</b>		<b>\$ (41,528.97)</b>	<b>\$ (13,848.02)</b>



### Address Change

Dick Haugen  
1282 Goodpasture Island Rd #23  
Eugene OR 97401

### CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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