

December 2022



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

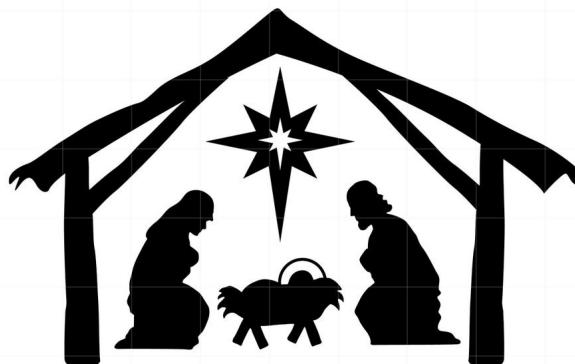
Financial Manager
Cindy Culpepper

Minister to Children, Youth &
Families for CUE
Crystal Miller

Video & Tech Support
Thomas Stine

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



Christmas Eve Manger Service at 4:30pm
Christmas Eve Festival Worship at 9:30pm

Christmas Day Worship
Sunday, December 25th at 10am
8th Day of Christmas Worship
Sunday, January 1st at 10am

(These services will also be live-streamed
or available later as a podcast)

**See p. 4 for our complete
Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule**

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE

"[The angel said to Joseph in a dream] ...Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, God is with us." Matthew 1:20b-23

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each year when the First Sunday of Advent comes upon us, as it did on November 27th in the year of our Lord, 2022, we flip the "liturgical" calendar to mark the beginning of a new church year. In the three-year lectionary cycle this is referred to as Year A, the year of Matthew. That is to say, most of our gospel readings from now until Christ the King Sunday next November, will be read from the gospel according to Matthew.

My reason for pointing this out to you is to highlight how this shows that those of us who follow liturgical calendars are out of sync with the dominant culture of our day. And by dominant culture I mean those who are either non-believers, are not affiliated with the church, or perhaps not even interested in matters of faith. While many around us are doing their part to keep cyber-shopping flourishing and delivery drivers even more frantic than usual, in our tradition we mark this season in an all-together different way. For most people, the festivities of ringing in the New Year will come when the calendar flips from December 31, 2022 to January 1, 2023.

But not us! As we prepare for Christ's coming, our faith teaches that our God became human and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. The Christ-child, born of Mary, has ushered in a whole new way of living, moving, and being, even as we await his coming again in the fullness of time.

So, what shall we do while we wait? My hope and prayer for us is that we will live ever more fully into our shared mission of being the hands and feet of Jesus by **loving** God and one another; by **nurturing** faithful living; by **serving** those in need; and by **sharing** the gospel. My hope and prayer is that our eyes, ears, hands, hearts, and minds will be open to unexpected possibilities so that God's will **will** be done on earth as in heaven. Finally, let us walk in sync together by resisting the temptation to walk in sync with the world, and instead boldly walk in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In Christ's Abiding Love,
Pastor Laurie

P.S. To find out some of the ways **you** can (Re)Engage in Christ's mission at Central, please refer to page 7.

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN

"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints."

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Dear members and friends of the body of Christ at Central,

On November 27, we enter into the blessed season of Advent. Advent means "coming." It is the season when we focus on the coming of Christ into the world. We think of Christ's first coming at Christmas and his second coming at the end of days. Our hope is that when Jesus returns, the pain and suffering of our present world will be no more, and that the fullness of the new creation will usher in with a new heaven and a new earth.

Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, which is often regarded as the very first writing of the New Testament to be written, is Paul writing to a community who were looking forward to that event of Jesus' return. Their seeming statement of faith was almost entirely about waiting for Jesus' return (1:9). They, in fact, thought it would be so soon that they were surprised that anyone in the community would die before Jesus came back (4:13-18). The community, then, was structured around focusing on the coming of Christ as the singular mark of their identity.

Paul writes to them that while they are focused upon the Advent of Christ into the world, part of the role of the community is to love one another. In fact, he pairs the two – if you are to keep alert and watch for Christ's coming (5:1-10), we also should be alert to one another, caring and encouraging one another (5:11). In the passage cited above, you see Paul pairing watching for Jesus' return with "abounding in love for one another." To watch for God is to love each other.

Our Advent theme for our Tuesday midweek services beginning 11/29 is "How hope for the end means love for one another." It is continuing our "(Re)Engage" theme for our program year. This will approach it from a new angle – how focusing on the advent of Christ will focus on our community being engaged with one another. We will spend our midweek Advent services and adult classes in 1 Thessalonians. This will be a new way to consider who we are and how we can be serving one another – being the hands and feet of Jesus.

In Christ,
Pastor Ben



Advent Worship & Holy Communion

Sundays at 8:30am* & 11am
(Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11 & 18)

Holden Evening Prayer

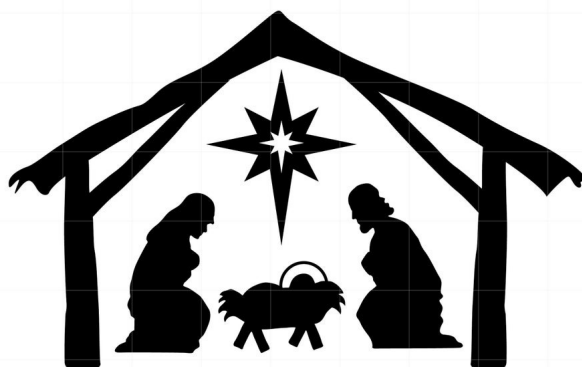
Tuesdays at 7pm
(Nov. 29, Dec. 6, & Dec. 13)

Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, Dec. 4 at 4:30pm*

Blue Christmas Service

Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 7pm



Christmas Eve Manger Service at 4:30pm*

Christmas Eve Festival Worship at 9:30pm*

Christmas Day Worship Sunday, December 25th at 10am*

Eighth Day of Christmas Worship, Sunday, January 1st at 10am*

Services denoted with an asterisk (*) will be live-streamed or available later as a podcast.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Saturday, December 3rd at 10am to 1pm: All ages - Christmas Party

All ages are invited to a Christmas celebration full of games, crafts, the story of Christmas, and Christmas treats. We will gather at Central from 10am to 1pm, please bring a sack lunch and one wrapped sweet treat for a fun gift exchange. Please let Crystal know by November 27th if your kiddos will be joining us. Adult volunteers are also needed and welcome please let me know if you would like to help.

Sunday, December 4th Christmas Tree set-up

Our youth group will be serving members of our community by setting up Christmas trees. If you would like help setting up your fake or artificial tree, please let Crystal Know and we will schedule a time to come to your home. If you are a teen planning to help, please meet us at United at Noon.

Sunday, December 18th: 12pm to 2pm meet at Luther House at Central

This is a youth group event for all 6th to 12th grade students. We will come together for a fun Christmas Cookie party. There will be ginger bread houses, cookies for eating, and some wonderful Holiday fun. Consider bringing a friend to this event.

To sign up for an event or for more information, contact Crystal by phone/text at 503.320.4055 or email: crystal@unitedlutheran.org.

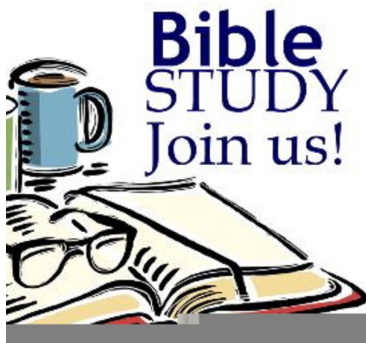


Do you want help setting up your tree this year?

Are you someone who loves having a Christmas tree up during Advent but are finding it difficult to set up your tree? Our teens would like to help you! A group of our CUE teens would like to help members of our CUE congregations by setting up their Christmas trees for them. This could mean hauling out your artificial tree and fluffing it up or bringing a small Douglass fir to your home. **If this is a service that you would find beneficial and would like to set up a mutually agreed upon time for our teens to come to your place please let Crystal know. Call/text her at: 503.320.4055 or email: crystal@unitedlutheran.org.**

We are still in the process of collecting photos of members and friends of Central for inclusion in the new pictorial directory. You can mail a picture to Kristi in the office or you can send a high resolution digital file (jpeg or png) of you and your household via email to: kelly@welcometocentral.org. Or, if you prefer, let Kelly know and she will schedule a time to take your picture before or after worship in the coming weeks.

Also, 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. If you haven’t yet done so, you can complete the questionnaire online at bit.ly/clcdirectory. Or, simply call Kristi in the church office during the week (541-345-0395) to double-check that the information we have for you and your household is correct.



**OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND
TO ENGAGE IN THE LIVING WORD
WITH ONE ANOTHER!**

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY (SAME DAY/SAME PLACE/NEW TIME 7:30AM!)

The Men’s Bible Study is meeting weekly on Wednesdays at The Original Pancake House, 782 Broadway, Eugene at **7:30am**. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact Chuck Dietz cdietz41@gmail.com.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join Pastor Laurie and/or Pastor Ben on Wednesdays at 11am via Zoom as we study the readings for the upcoming Sunday. No preparation needed. Email Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben if you’d like to have the link sent directly to your inbox.

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 rb24@aol.com. Newcomers are always welcome!

Some of the Ways *YOU* Can (Re)Engage in Christ's Mission

At Central Lutheran:

1. Altar Guild (preparing worship space for services, including setting up for communion) Contact: Meg Hicks
2. Eucharistic Ministers (serving communion to those who are homebound)
Contact: Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben
3. Music Ministry
 - Children's Choir (Rehearsals on Tuesdays) Contact: Lindsey
 - Chorale (Rehearsals on Wednesdays) Contact: ElRay
 - Handbell Ensemble (Rehearsals on Thursdays) Contact: ElRay
4. Offering Counters (making bank deposits) Contact: Charlotte Bontrager
5. Prayer Ministry (praying for those in need) Contact: Gary Wolfe
6. Quilting (1st & 3rd Thursdays in the Gathering Room) Contact: Jill Liedtke
7. Solace (provide hospitality/receptions for Memorial Services) Contact: Kristi
8. Sunday Morning Education for Children (teach or assist) Contact: Pastor Laurie
9. Together Tuesdays Meal (meal prep, set-up and clean up) Contact: Pastor Laurie
10. Worship Leaders Contact: Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben
 - Greeters (warmly welcome worshipers)
 - Ushers (hand out bulletins, collect offering)
 - Lectors (read the lessons)
 - Communion Assistants (serve communion)

In the Larger Community:

1. Dining Room (serving nutritious meals to those in need) Contact: Ben Brown
2. Egan Warming Center (providing temporary shelter to unhoused neighbors when temperatures fall below freezing) While Central is not reactivating as a host site you can find out ways to volunteer by [clicking here for additional info.](#)
3. First Place Family Dinners (teams from Central provide a weekly meal on Mondays to families housed at the Annex) Contact: Kim Meyers
4. FISH - Friends In Service to Humanity (all volunteer organization helping those in need with food, prescriptions, propane, etc.) Contact: Norma & Steve Edman

Highlights from Church Council

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

Church Council met Nov. 16, 2022

Treasurer's Report: See last page

Action Items:

CLC had been asked if it would consider becoming an Egan Warming Center as it had in previous years pre-COVID. The Council concurred that the Egan Warming Centers, staffed almost entirely by volunteers, are doing vital work. After reviewing alternative ideas about how to support Egan goals, from the church hosting Egan guests on nights when the temperature falls below 30 degrees, as it has done in some previous years, through a range of other options, the Council ultimately decided to discontinue hosting Egan guests at CLC for the time being, while reminding members of the congregation that they can still volunteer at other Egan sites. Also, volunteers are needed to help with existing programs, in particular preparing a Monday night meal for First Place families sheltering at the St. Vincent de Paul site on West Amazon Drive. The bulletin, the Centralite, and announcements during services will let members know how they can volunteer.

A motion to donate the church van to St. Vincent de Paul, after removing all CLC identification, was passed unanimously (this was after Camp Lutherwood declined our offer to donate it to them).

A motion to accept the following new members received by Affirmation of Baptism on 10/30/22 was passed. The new members are: Barbara Bergersen, Alyse Jamieson, Elizabeth "Libby" Kelly, Jeanne & Jim Savage, and Susan & Ray Wade.



Dear Central Lutheran,

We give thanks for you, saints! Thank you for your generous and faithful giving to mission support. It has been a trying and ambiguous time for us all. Your increase in giving thus far this year keeps us hopeful and focused on sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Advent Blessings! A light shines!

Peace & Love,

Pastor Melissa Reed and your Oregon Synod
Leadership

BOOK CLUB NEWS



The CLC Book Club will meet via ZOOM on Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, at 7:00pm to discuss any Lord Peter Wimsey mystery by Dorothy L. Sayers. These books are light, enjoyable reading and offer a look at 1930s Britain. Here are a few links you may find helpful:

A list of the novels and stories in date order (published 1920-1940)

<http://www.leftfield.org/~rawdson/books/mystery/sayers.html>

Lord Peter has his own Wikipedia page

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Peter_Wimsey

In addition to the books, Lord Peter Wimsey is also the leading character in television and movies—see the Wikipedia page for details. The discussion will be led by Ginger Bopp.

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, Jan. 9, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. to discuss *All In: An Autobiography* by Billie Jean King. The discussion will be led by Gary Wolfe.

WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Betsy Berg, Bonnie Betts, Terry Chap, Claudia Hardwick, Dal Haverland, Lori Lund, Doug & Jody Martin, Chris Prescott, Marni Reinmuth, Alice Rotchstein; the family & friends of Joy Lathrop (Joy died on Nov. 23) and the family & friends of Virginia Jacobson (Virginia died on Nov. 24).

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

Or, email: prayers@welcometocentral.org.



INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

Individual prayer is available on the first Sunday of the month (this month, Dec. 4) directly after the 8:30 service in the chapel. You are invited to join one of our prayer ministers there for

ADDRESS CHANGES

Steve & Norma Edman telephone change

Steve: 458-209-7627

Norma: 541-912-7348

Central Lutheran Church

Jan-Oct 2022 Income:Expense to Budget - Jan-Oct 2021 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-Oct 2022	YTD 2022 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-Oct 2021
Regular Envelopes	\$ 454,457.52	\$ 520,830.00	\$ (66,372.48)	\$ 432,183.81
Other Offerings	5,042.74	5,000.00	\$ 42.74	\$ 953.10
Holiday Offerings	9,154.00	7,450.00	\$ 1,704.00	\$ 5,590.00
Other Income	61,458.86	18,887.60	\$ 42,571.26	\$ 92,307.16
Departmental Income	80,173.15	101,818.76	\$ (21,645.61)	\$ 72,222.26
Total Income	\$ 610,286.27	\$ 653,986.36	\$ (43,700.09)	\$ 603,256.33
Total Expenses	\$ 667,463.49	\$ 688,614.44	\$ (21,150.95)	\$ 633,914.61
YTD Net Income	\$ (57,177.22)	\$ (34,628.08)	\$ (22,549.14)	\$ (30,658.28)
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 31,815.00	\$ 31,815.00	\$ - 0 -	\$ 51,111.70
Net after carryover applied	\$ (25,362.22)	\$ (2,813.08)	\$ (22,549.14)	\$ 20,453.42

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