

June
2023



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*

Mark your calendars:

- **Camp Lutherwood Sunday at Central June 4th** with an intergenerational presentation between services
- **Semi-Annual Meeting June 11th**, between services in the Parish Hall
- **Last Together Tuesday for the Program Year, June 13th** with meal served between 5:15-6pm; followed by an all-age game night (bring your favorite board game)
- **Blood Drive at Central Lutheran Church Thursday, June 15th** from 10am to 3pm in the parish hall
- **Summer Worship Schedule begins Sunday, June 18th** (see p. 6 for details)
 - 8:30am in the Sanctuary
(or via livestream)
 - 11am at the Garden
(2345 Laura St. Springfield)
- **Vacation Bible School at Central June 26-30** (see p. 7 for details)

Central's Staff

Pastor Laurie A. Jones
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Deacon Clare Josef-Maier
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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

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE

Dear Friends,

As I write this epistle I'm getting ready to embark on a three-month sabbatical. For pastors and deacons, sabbaticals are intended to be a time set apart for rest, travel, and study. In Hebrew the word *sabbath* literally means "*work stoppage*." The earliest mention in the Bible comes in the first story of creation where we read, "And on the seventh day God finished the work God had done...So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation" (Genesis 2:2-3).

I certainly hope you don't think I'm comparing myself to God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. Rather, I hope you'll keep reading! Because it's in Exodus where we actually hear God's command: "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work...For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it" (Exodus 20:8-11).

Clearly in the rhythm of our daily lives, God's intention is for humans to set aside time to worship and to rest. And yet it's safe to say, we are now living in a society that has seemingly lost its ability to practice or value, let alone heed God's command for Sabbath—for worship or for rest! I confess to you, my brothers and sisters, that I am as guilty as the next person in not attending to the discipline of sabbath rest. In a day and age of instant communication—cell phones, texts, emails, social media—as well as our attempts to over-function and keep ourselves continuously busy and constantly on the go, a lot of us aren't getting sufficient rest. Me included.

Now in my seventh year at Central, it's time to take advantage of your generous Personnel policy of providing rostered ministers a sabbatical—not just a day, but three months! From May 29 - Aug 25, I will be away from Central and Eugene. Over the summer I'll be reconnecting with family and friends in CA, NM, MN, and WA as well as traveling to Norway via Frankfurt, Copenhagen, and Stockholm. In addition to opportunities for worshiping (without a leadership role), there will be intentional time devoted to reading, resting, and recreating! I intend to use the latter part of August to focus my attention on plans for the program year at Central and our life together in what I anticipate to be a smooth and joyful reentry.

In the meantime, it's a blessing to know that you are in good hands—with the faithful leadership of Pastor Ben, Deacon Clare, the Central staff, and one another, but even more importantly it's a blessing to know you are in the good hands of our God, the One who remains with us always, even when we are absent one from another. I hope and pray you too will focus on your own need for Sabbath rest while continuing to remain faithful to worshiping God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving your neighbor as yourself. May God's peace and grace be with you all.

In Christ's abiding love and with deep gratitude,

+Pastor Laurie

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN

"For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." Acts 2:39

Dear People of God,

This verse above is from the sermon Peter gives at Pentecost when the community at Jerusalem receives the Spirit. The event of Pentecost is sometimes called the birth of the church. By that, it means that in Acts 2, after Jesus ascends into heaven, the community of Jesus' followers enter the next stage of relationship with Jesus. It is the stage after Jesus' earthly ministry until Jesus' return at the end of days. In that stage, Jesus is present among us through the Holy Spirit, and we support one another in love and service as a community. We are still in that stage today!

The Spirit works and moves among us in various ways. We sometimes call the season after Pentecost (which goes all the way until Advent in November) "ordinary time." We sometimes can see that as "uninteresting" or "unimportant" but really it is a time where we recognize the way God is always working among us. The Spirit is empowering us in amazing ways every day. It might seem "ordinary" in the sense that it is in ordinary time and space, but the effect upon us and our community is extraordinary indeed.

One extraordinary thing that occurred at Pentecost was this declaration of Peter quoted above that this Holy Spirit was for everyone regardless whether they were in Jerusalem that day or not. The Spirit is among us and continues to be among us. There are amazing ordinary ways that God works in our community at all times. I am excited about the way that Central Lutheran will continue to be a presence of Christ's light in Eugene. This summer we will show that in new and exciting ways.

We will once again return to the garden in Springfield for the 11 o'clock service beginning June 18. We will have a new "Season of Creation" in the month of July in collaboration with United and Emmaus Lutheran (look for more information about this next month), host Vacation Bible School at the end of June, and so many more ways of our expression of the Spirit alive in us.

I look forward to seeing how God is becoming alive for us this summer and every day.

Peace,
Pastor Ben

Congratulations to our 2023 High School Graduates

Matthew Koscho



Matthew is the son of Sandra and Michael Koscho. He is graduating from South Eugene High School.

Matthew has been a long-time member of Central, having sung with the Children's and Alleluia Choirs and helped with summer Vacation Bible School. He is finding his voice through creative writing, art and drama and has been working on the South Eugene yearbook all year. He enjoys cooking, riding his bike, playing sports such as pickle ball and swimming. Even though Matthew is not sure of his plans for the future, he knows that Jesus will be by his side every step of his new adventure.

Honora Mathisen-Lund

Honora is the daughter of Sue Mathisen and Lori Lund. She is graduating from Marist Catholic High School.

Baptized and confirmed at Central, Honora has been actively involved in the life of the church. She has participated in youth activities, sang in the Children's Choir, Alleluia Choir, and most recently the Chorale, as well as serving in a variety of worship leadership roles including as a Cantor and an Assisting Minister. Her extra-curricular involvement at Marist has included orchestra, student council, choir, and theater.



Honora plans to attend the Oregon Institute of Technology to earn an Associate in Applied Science in Paramedicine. This program takes two years to complete and is in association with Oregon Health and Science University. Afterwards she hopes to become a paramedic and perhaps later pursue a degree in nursing.



Thomas Stine

Thomas is the son of Janice and Christopher Stine. He is graduating from South Eugene High School.

Thomas has been involved in youth activities and confirmation since his early teens. Having being trained by Ted Hicks, in recent years Thomas has been operating the sound system and live streaming the worship services for Central. Occasionally, he can also be found playing his trombone with the brass ensemble.

His extra-curricular activities at South Eugene have primarily revolved around the Robotics Team and traveling to competitions, most recently as one of 600 teams from around the world who competed in the Robotics Competition Championship in Houston. He spends his spare time volunteering with an electronics recycling store and helping with summer science camps for Middle School youth.

Thomas plans to begin pursuing an Electrical Engineering degree at Oregon State University this fall.

Lutherans showed up for Interfaith Advocacy Day at the Capitol!

On Wednesday, May 10, eight members of Central and United traveled together to Salem for a day-long event hosted by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Morning sessions at St. Mark Lutheran Church introduced current legislation related to shared faith concerns, and prepared participants for talking with their legislators. In the afternoon session, participants split up to meet with their



senator and state representative and speak up for their values. One of our Central members said of their experience, "I woke up [the next] morning feeling so hopeful and thankful. What we experienced left me feeling more energized and happy than I have felt in so long. ... Learning how hard our legislators and activists are working in Oregon made me so pleased to be an Oregonian and a Lutheran."

Thanks to everyone who joined us, and we look forward to future opportunities!



SMILE: It's not too late to have your picture

included in Central's new picture directory. Pictures will be taken on Sunday, June 4th following worship. Or, you can submit yours directly to Kelly Colvin-Smith by text at 541-221-7001 or email: kelly_colvin@hotmail.com.

DEADLINE for submissions is Tuesday, June 6th.

Directories will be ready for distribution at the semi-annual meeting on June 11th or you can stop by to pick one up from Kristi in the church office.

CAMP LUTHERWOOD SUNDAY AT CENTRAL, JUNE 4

Camp Lutherwood staff, including Outreach Coordinator, Pastor Sara Samuelson will be joining us in worship and leading an intergenerational forum between services on Sunday June 4th. This is an opportunity to learn about the programs and camp opportunities for this summer (and beyond) as well as the exciting plans currently underway to build a new lodge.

SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITY SATURDAY AT CAMP, JUNE 3

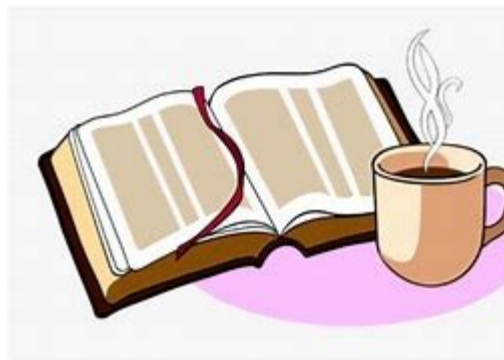
Also: On Saturday, June 3rd from 9:00-3:00 there is an opportunity to help spruce up camp before the arrival of the summer campers. All ages are welcome. Lunch is provided by camp.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 18

The 8:30am service will continue in the sanctuary as well as via livestream for those who are unable to worship with us in person. However, our 11 o'clock worship service will return to the Garden (2345 Laura St. Springfield) for a less formal service in a beautiful garden setting. For those who haven't attended services there in prior years, it is easily accessible with no stairs to navigate and plenty of parking, either onsite or directly across the street at Oregon Neurology. Worship is in an open air, covered building with a view of the Garden. After services you are welcome to glean fruits and vegetables, or simply walk the grounds and soak in the beauty of God's creation. Invite a friend to join you!

THANK YOU!

This year's Lenten offerings designated to Lutheran Disaster Response for Turkey/Syria Earthquake Relief came to over \$3500. LDR continues to work on the ground with local NGO's to make the greatest impact and provide services where help is needed most.



OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TO ENGAGE IN *NURTURING FAITHFUL LIVING!*

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study is now meeting weekly on Wednesdays at **The Springs, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd. Eugene at 8:00am**. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact Gary Wolfe (gswolfe@aol.com).

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join Pastor Ben on Wednesdays at 11am via Zoom as we study the readings for the upcoming Sunday. No preparation needed. Email 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!

SUMMER VBS June 26th - 30th (9am-12:30pm)

Central, United, and Emmaus (CUE) are excited to partner together to offer another fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School for children ages 3 years old thru 5th grade. Hosted at Central, we'll gather for fun activities including worship, story-time, crafts, songs, games, and snacks. Friends are welcome!

Older youth (MS/HS) and adults are needed to help with daily activities. Please let Crystal know if you are available to help with preparations and/or your availability to help for the entire week or even for a few days. You can email Crystal at: crystal@unitedlutheran.org.

To register your child/ren or grandchild/ren, click the link below or go online to:

<https://forms.gle/1RfkFchQEEQiYmd76>

Highlights from Church Council

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

The Church Council met on May 17, 2023

Treasurer's Report: See last page

Action Items:

The Council put together the agenda for the Semi-Annual Congregational meeting on June 11 between services which will include elections of some church positions, constitutional changes to update our constitution with the amendments made at the 2022 ELCA churchwide assembly, reports on the property projects and results of the ingathering, and the distribution of the picture directory.

Highlights from the 2023 Oregon Synod Assembly

The Oregon Synod Assembly met on May 20, 2023 via Zoom.

The assembly passed the 2024 Oregon Synod Budget. Included in that budget is \$15,000 dedicated to Good Soil/Christus House Campus Ministry (this is a \$5000 dollar increase from this year).

Synod elections were held and among those elected was Central's Becky Shurson who was reelected as the representative of the Emerald Cluster on Synod Council. Congratulations, Becky!

The assembly passed constitutional changes to match the amendments made at the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Many thanks to our lay delegates from Central: Debbie Knebel and Michael King!



2023 Grad

Sam Olsson who graduated from Lewis & Clark and had a fantastic senior year on the LC Warrior's Baseball Team. Way to go, Sammy!!!

BOOK CLUB NEWS



NOTE DATE CHANGE: The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on **Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 7:00pm.**

Birth of a Cooperative: Hoedads, Inc., A Worker Owned Forest Labor Co-op by Hal Hartzell, Jr. In 1972, Mr. Hartzell had returned to Eugene after serving in the Peace Corps and was invited by Jerry Rust to join him planting trees for the Forest Service. If you were an itinerant hippie living in Eugene in the late '60s and '70s, you probably knew (or were!) a Hoedad. In this book, Hartzell has brought what he calls "a worker owned forest labor co-op" to life. The Hoedads were named

for the tool they used for planting trees, sort of a cross between an axe and a shovel. The trees they planted, where mighty stands of old growth Douglas Fir had been systematically clear-cut, are now substantial trees themselves, and the reforestation of those lands were thanks to the efforts of the Hoedads. The Hoedads themselves were an odd bunch, part mountain man (almost all of them were men), part environmentalist, part counterculture rebel. As John Sundquist, one of the original Hoedads put it, "*You are what you plant. A while back in each of our lives we set our feet on the path of Life. Sundry detours later our paths cross and we are in the Hoedads. It all comes together in the act of planting that little seedling.*" Meg Hicks, who will lead this month's discussion, found this book on the "staff picks" table at Tsunami Books and discovered the owner of Tsunami was a former Hoedad, along with long-time County Commissioner Jerry Rust.

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, July 10, 2023, at 7:00pm for the Annual Book Choosing Meeting. Be thinking of two books to recommend for next year's reading list. Watch this space for more details.

WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS



Lue Berg, Terry Chap, Chuck Dietz, Dal Haverland, Cyndy Lane, Doug & Jody Martin, Gretchen & Jeff Simas, Gary Wolfe, and the family of David Zhou

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

Or, email: prayers@welcometocentral.org.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

Individual prayer is available in the chapel on the **first Sunday of the month** directly after the 8:30 service. You are invited to join one of our prayer ministers for one-on-one prayer in a private setting.

Central Lutheran Church

Jan-Apr 2023 Income:Expense to Budget - Jan-Apr 2022 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-Apr 2023	YTD 2023 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-Apr 2022
Regular Envelopes	\$ 209,361.76	\$ 211,666.68	\$ 2,304.92)	\$ 176,839.53
Other Offerings	2,237.30	2,600.00	\$ (362.70)	\$ 1,804.00
Holiday Offerings	9,084.00	13,733.68	\$ 4,649.68)	\$ 8,729.00
Other Income	110,647.42	12,444.68	\$ 98,202.74	\$ 7,226.90
Departmental Income	41,066.68	49,188.56	\$ (8,121.88)	\$ 34,919.92
Total Income	\$ 372,397.16	\$ 289,633.60	\$ 82,763.56	\$ 229,519.35
Total Expenses	\$ 319,274.63	\$ 300,650.34	\$ 18,624.29	\$ 272,260.11
YTD Net Income	\$ 53,122.53	\$ (11,016.74)	\$ 64,139.27	\$ (42,740.76)
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 11,025.00	\$ 11,025.00	-	\$ 12,726.00
Net after carryover applied	\$ 64,147.53	\$ 8.26	\$ 64,139.27	\$ (30,014.76)

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

To date we have received over \$112,000 in special gifts for our property maintenance projects! An update will be provided at our semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 11th (between services in the Parish Hall). Also, in April we received an unrestricted gift of \$100,000 from an anonymous donor which is reflected under "other income" on the chart above.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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