

October
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
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(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

Livestream Video
Todd Shorack

Church Council

President, Debbie Knebel
Vice Pres, Jean Clancey
Secretary, Jack Bennett
Treasurer, Brent Moeller
Dan Buckwalter
Terie Gillis
Matt Hougland
Howard Kallinen
Sue Kilber
Todd Shorack
Chuck Swenson

Special Events in October!

The Feast of St. Francis & Blessing of the Animals, October 6th

Bring your 4-footed companions (and other pets) to worship (8:30am or 11am) for a special blessing.

Quilt Sunday, October 13th

Plan to celebrate our Quilting Ministry as we bless the quilts and those who will receive them.

Campus Ministry Sunday, October 13th

Come and celebrate our outreach ministry to UO & LCC student. Plus, meet & greet new and returning Christus House residents.

**Chi Rho Lectures - October 18-20 with
Dr. Dennis Lindsay (see page 8 for details)**

**Reformation Sunday, October 27th
Celebrating Central's 120 Years of Ministry
(Wear Red!)**

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE

Bridge from the Past, in the Present, and to the Future

Central Lutheran Church: Celebrating **120** years of Ministry

Camp Lutherwood: Celebrating **65** Years of Ministry



Bridge from the Past:

Celebrating our Partnership in Ministry

Bridge in the Present:

Celebrating God's Bountiful Creation & Abundant Blessings

Bridge to the Future:

Celebrating Generations to Come

Dear Friends in Christ,

One hundred & twenty years ago, way back in 1904, Trinity Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church was formed in Eugene by a small group of Norwegian immigrants. Fifty years later, the congregation made a bold decision to move from 6th & Pearl to our current church home on the corner of 18th & Potter. With this new location, came a new name—Central Lutheran Church.

Suffice to say, much has changed over these past 50 to 120 years. Yet, one thing has remained unchanged—Christ Jesus—the Word made flesh, God incarnate, God-with-us, the One who was, who is, and who always will be. Jesus is the bridge that links us to our ancestors of the faith, a faith that has been passed down to us through the ages. Jesus is the bridge that links us to all of the people who make up the body of Christ at Central Lutheran today. Jesus is the bridge that undergirds our partnership with Camp Lutherwood, with CUE: Central, United, & Emmaus, and with one another. And thanks be to God, Jesus is the bridge that will link us to future generations, yet to come.

However, we are now at a crossroad of sorts. Camp Lutherwood is in the midst of a Capital Campaign to build facilities which will allow the camp to serve guests year-round. Along with congregations throughout the Oregon Synod, Central has been a huge supporter of this ministry for the past 65 years! Now, we have an opportunity to celebrate the past while continuing to partner with Camp Lutherwood in the present and well into the future. Every gift toward our shared mission and ministry is vital— together we can make a difference. So stay tuned... in the weeks to come you'll be hearing a lot more about this opportunity as well as a reaffirmation of our commitment to the mission and ministry to which God has called Central—all of us together—as Christ's body, the Church!

With gratitude to God for your faithful generosity & partnership in the Gospel,
Pastor Laurie

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN

My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. (1 Cor 2:4-5)

Dear family of God at Central,

In the passage above, Paul is recalling to the Corinthians what happened when he first arrived in Corinth. Paul says that he did not speak wildly eloquently or convincingly, but instead let the Spirit work. Paul says this, probably, for a few reasons. One is the simple reality that we are often not eloquent when we try to speak – instead, what we present is simply our authenticity before others – Paul's greatest mission strategy was simply his witness of being a follower of Jesus in a Roman world. There also is another reason that might not be as obvious, though. In the ancient world, there were traveling "wise people" who did go about with impressive speeches. They were in a previous generation called "sophists."

The problem with them is that sophistry is not concerned with any particular content – it was just about rhetorically convincing people of most anything. As such, it came off as pretty shallow. People became very skeptical of all "wise people" who traveled around. Paul knows this context and therefore doesn't do that. He deliberately avoids such displays of wisdom as they would turn off his audience. Paul, and the entire Bible speak to particular contexts. What's more, those contexts are not the same! Each book is directed to a particular audience. One of the hardest things for us to do as Christians in 2024 is to try and figure out what that context is.

This is important because if we don't understand the context of how the Gospel is proclaimed in a particular setting, we can misunderstand what the text is saying as we apply it to our own lives. Our Tuesday night adult education series, "The World of the New Testament" is about that – how can we understand the context of the Bible so that we can then read it afresh seeing why it makes the particular points it does. It is a study about context and why contexts matter.

There's another context we also have to look at seriously – our own context. Central Lutheran has a rich history which has been contextual since its founding in 1904 – always speaking to its present community at different times. Our Sunday morning Education hour is going to be looking at those contexts. It is a series called "The Bridge from the past, in the present, to the future." We will look at several topics (music, language, confirmation, worship, etc.) longitudinally over Central Lutheran's history and we will be asking ourselves what was the context when something occurred in the past, what is the context now, and where do we see this going in the future? We will have time for sharing stories and processing feelings when we recognize that some of the contexts we once had are no longer present and we miss them. We will also hope and dream as we look to the future recognizing that the Spirit is and will remain working among us. It will be a meaningful time to talk about what it has meant, and does mean, to be the church in all times and places. I hope you will join us.

In Christ,
Pastor Ben

ENDOWMENT GRANT PROPOSALS WELCOME

Annual Solicitation for Funding Special Projects: CLC Endowment Fund Committee is actively soliciting proposals for funding special projects within the church which are outside of the normal budget. Acceptance of these proposals will be guided by the CLC Mission: to be the hands and feet of Jesus by loving God and one another, nurturing faithful living, serving those in need, and sharing the Gospel. Request forms may be obtained in the Narthex, church office, on the church website at welcometocentral.org/endowment, or from a member of the Endowment Committee. Your proposal must be coordinated through a ministry team, committee, council, relevant staff person, and/or one of the pastors. Please have your requests delivered to the church office or to the committee by Friday, October 25, 2024. Endowment Fund Committee Members: Lorraine Davis, Becky Shurson, Bruce Smolnisky, Drew Haugen, Stephanie Riess, Donna Bennett and Debbie Knebel (Council Rep).

CUE MS/HS Youth Group Schedule:

Our Youth Group is growing and we are expanding our programming to better meet our needs. Our schedule this fall is as follows:

High School Youth Group (grades 9-12) will meet on the 2nd Sunday.
October 13th, November 10th, December 8th

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6-8) will meet on the 3rd Sunday.
October 20th, November 17th, December 15th

Combined Youth Group (Grades 6-12) will meet on the 4th Sunday.
October 27th and November 24th

CUE Trunk or Treat Festival for all ages – October 27th

All are invited to attend a fun-for-all-ages Trunk or Treat event. This a collaborative fellowship opportunity for our CUE congregations and will take place at Emmaus Lutheran Church from 3-5pm on Sunday, October 27th. Please let us know if you would be interested in setting up and hosting a decorated car/truck/trunk and handing out candy to the kids. You can arrive between 2:30 and 3:30pm to set up your car display and we will begin the trunk or treat at 3:30pm. Starting at 3pm there will also be festive games and activities for all ages to participate in. Please feel free to invite friends, family and all others. Everyone is encouraged to dress in costume. Reach out to Crystal Miller with questions or to volunteer.

The Prayer Ministry Lending Library

The Prayer Ministry Lending Library cart located in the Narthex is filled with books to enhance your prayer life. There are a range of books from short reads to somewhat longer ones. Check out the cart, read a book, return it, or pass it along to a friend. Here is information on one of the books:

Hearing God by Dallas Willard

Being close to God means communicating with God—telling God what is on our hearts in prayer *and* hearing, and understanding what God is saying to us. But how do we hear God's voice? How can we be sure that what we think we hear is not our own subconscious? What role does the Bible play? What if what God says to us is not clear? The key, says bestselling author Dallas Willard, is to focus not so much on individual actions and decisions as on building our personal relationship with our Creator. In this beloved classic, which now includes a foreword by James Bryan Smith, you'll gain rich spiritual insight into how we can hear God's voice clearly and develop an intimate partnership with God in the work of God's kingdom.



WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Gwen Acker, Catherine Bailey, Megan Bryson, Karlyn Campbell, Tom Catherwood, Richard Catlin, Terry Chap, Marcy Colvin, Eric Elwood, Gayle Henry, Doug & Jody Martin, Marni Reinmuth, Jeff Simas, Roger Smith, Shirley Watson, Roger Welch, and Greg Young.

Prayers of comfort for Norma Vettrus and the family & friends of Dennis upon his death. (A memorial service for Dennis will be held at Central on Sunday, November 10th at 2pm with a reception immediately following the service.)

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

Individual Prayers are available from a Prayer Minister on the 1st Sunday of the month in the chapel following the 8:30am worship service.

Bible Study



Wednesday Men's Bible Study at 8am at the Springs (1282 Goodpasture Island Rd)

A group of men gather each week at the Springs for Bible study, breakfast, and fellowship. Contact Gary Wolfe (541-505-6380) if you'd like more information.

Pastor's Bible Study Wednesdays at 11am via Zoom

All are welcome to join Pastor Ben or Pastor Laurie on Zoom for a bible study using the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday. The lessons and a zoom link are sent out to those who wish to participate. If you'd like to be included in the email please contact one of the pastors.

Thursday Women's Bible Study at 11am is now a hybrid meeting!

A group of us are meeting in person in the Church Library with the option of continuing to join on Zoom. Pastor Ben is helping us to make adjustments to the technology to make this an inclusive meeting for all participants. Please join us in person at 11am in the Library or follow the link that is sent out via email in "This Week's Events at Central." If you have any questions contact Sally Diehm at 541-852-0007.

Adult Education Classes

Grab a cup of coffee in the Narthex and then join us between services on Sundays from 9:45-10:45am in the Library and/or enjoy a meal served between 5:15-6pm on Together Tuesdays and then gather for a lively adult education class from 6-7pm in the Library.

Serving those in need...

Interfaith Food Hub is Looking for Volunteers

Spend a few hours a week making sandwiches for our unhoused neighbors on Wednesdays at First Christian Church downtown. Click the link for more info: <https://signup.com/go/ErFTQVP>

BOOK CLUB NEWS



The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, at 7:00pm to discuss Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson. There has always been a hidden and powerful caste system in America that, beyond race, class, or other factors, influences people's daily lives, behavior, mental health, life expectancy, and the nation's fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. She documents how the Nazis studied the racial systems in America to plan their outcasting of the Jews and discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity. The discussion will be led by Betsy Berg.

Looking Ahead: The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, Nov. 11, 2024, at 7:00pm to discuss Crossing the Plains with Bruno by Annick Smith. Annick Smith has written a memoir of a road trip to visit her 97-year-old mother in Chicago. She drives with her dog Bruno from her home outside of Missoula, MT, across the Plains, to Chicago, and then to their family cabin in Sawyer on the east coast of Lake Michigan. She writes about the small towns she drives through, Chicago, and the family cabin in Michigan. She writes of her family history in eastern Europe before WWII and their move to Paris and eventually to the US. She writes of western history and her connection to the land, to her family, and to her dog Bruno. 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."



JOIN US FOR "MIDWEEK COFFEE HOUR"

on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
of the month
October 9th & 23rd
from 1:00-2:00pm
in the Terrace Room

Chi Rho Lectures 2024

Dedicated to the memory of Charles H. Dietz, Jr. in honor of his years of service.



“I Believe, Help My Unbelief!”

(Re-)Discovering Faith for Moments of Crisis

A desperate father's plea, “I believe, help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24), mirrors the struggle of many Christians today who sincerely seek to trust in Jesus while navigating a precipice of faith abandonment. Dr. Lindsay explores how a clearer understanding of the “faith” vocabulary in the Bible offers real help by exposing the supposed dichotomy between faith and reason as a modern imposition upon the language of the ancient text.



A Weekend of Study with Dr. Dennis R. Lindsay

October 18–20, 2024

Central Lutheran Church
1857 Potter St., Eugene, Oregon



Dennis R. Lindsay
(Dr.Theol. University of Tübingen, Germany), professor emeritus of biblical studies and academic dean at Bushnell University in Eugene, Oregon,

is currently director of the Institute for the Study of Christian Origins in Tübingen, Germany and faculty member of TCM International Institute near Vienna, Austria. He is the author of *Josephus and Faith*, 1993, and *Believing in Jesus: Studies in the Gospel of John*, 2006, as well as coeditor of *Wisdom, Faith, & Service: Reframing the Bushnell University Saga*, 2023.

**The Crisis of Faith
(and the Loss of Biblical-Theological Perspective)**
Friday, Oct.18, 7:00 pm, Central Lutheran Church,
1857 Potter St., Eugene, OR

**The Foundation of Faith
(and Jesus' Role as Pioneer and Perfecter)**
Saturday, Oct.19, 10:00 am, Bushnell University,
828 E. 11th Ave., Eugene, OR

The Opposite of Faith (and the Rehabilitation of Doubt)
Saturday, Oct.19, 7:00 pm, Central Lutheran Church

The Gift of Faith (and the Potential of Human Participation)
Sunday, Oct. 20, 9:45 am, Central Lutheran Church

Dr. Lindsay will participate in and preach at the 8:30 and 11 am
Worship Services at Central Lutheran Church, Sunday, Oct. 20.



Chi Rho Lectures are free and open to all, in person or online via livestream.
connecttocentral.org/chirholectures • info@welcometocentral.org

Highlights from Church Council

The Council Highlights show all action items of the Church Council, but not discussion items. Full Church Council Minutes are available upon request at info@welcometocentral.org

The Church Council met on August 21, 2024

Treasurer's Report: (see last page)

Action Items:

New Members: The Council approved the following people to become members of Central Lutheran Church:

Deborah Anderson, Judith and Richard Bailey, Taylor Irons, and Maggie McCausland.

Christus House Peer Minister: The Council approved John Asbury to serve as peer minister of Christus House for 2024-25, as recommended by the Campus Ministry Committee.

Campus Ministry Council Representative: Terie Hansen Gillis was appointed to serve as the new Council representative on the Campus Ministry Committee.

Consider joining one of Central's Dinner Groups

Dinner Groups are a fun way to meet socially and get to know other church members. Each group consists of 6-8 people—couples or singles—and typically meet four or more times per year, depending on what/when the group chooses. Don't have a house big enough to host a group this size? No worries. Simply choose a restaurant with a quiet area and each person will pay for their own meal. We also have a Christmas party in early December with all groups attending when possible. Meals in homes are usually potluck—the host/hostess provides the main course and asks each member of their group to provide appetizers, salad and/or vegetable, potatoes, bread and dessert to compliment the meal. Non-alcoholic beverages are provided by the host/hostess with group members bringing their own preference of white or red wine to share. Note: There may also be interest in forming a "lunch group" for those who prefer not having to drive at night.

If you'd like to join a group or are interested in finding out more info, email Dick & Debbie Darst (dickdarst@comcast.net) or call Kristi (541-345-0395).

Central Lutheran Church

Jan-Aug 2024 Income:Expense to Budget - Jan-Aug 2023 Income:Expense Summary

| | Jan-Aug 24 | YTD 2024 Budget | Variance to Budget | Jan-Jul 2023 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Regular Envelopes | \$ 373,848.65 | \$ 411,500.00 | \$ (37,651.35) | \$ 369,882.93 |
| Other Offerings | \$ 4,393.00 | \$ 5,200.00 | \$ (807.00) | \$ 4,630.30 |
| Holiday Offerings | \$ 4,680.00 | \$ 7,300.00 | \$ (2,620.00) | \$ 10,084.00 |
| Other Income | \$ 31,028.41 | \$ 19,625.96 | \$ 11,402.45 | \$ 120,315.53 |
| Departmental Income | \$ 136,371.70 | \$ 101,024.76 | \$ 35,346.94 | \$ 84,598.72 |
| Total Income | \$ 550,321.76 | \$ 544,650.72 | \$ 5,671.04 | \$ 589,511.48 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 633,414.37 | \$ 613,998.68 | \$ 19,415.69 | \$ 600,993.03 |
| YTD Net Income | \$ (83,092.61) | \$ (69,347.96) | \$ (13,744.65) | \$ (11,481.55) |
| Prorated carryover-Previous Year | \$ 37,969.36 | \$ 37,969.36 | - | \$ 22,050.00 |
| Net after carryover applied | \$ (45,123.25) | \$ (31,378.60) | \$ (13,744.65) | \$ 10,568.45 |

Address changes

Please make these changes in your Directory

Rich & Michelle Bremer

2375 Sandy Dr Eugene 97401

JoAnne Hynes

1007 NW Hillside Pkwy

McMinnville, OR 97128-9563

Phone: 503-857-0444

Shirley Watson

600 Waterford Way Apt. 233 Eugene 97401



CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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