

September



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

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

**BACK TO
SCHOOL**

Blessing



**September 10, 2023
8:30am & 11:00am**

Children of all ages are invited to bring
your backpack with you to worship for
a special blessing!

**Also: Plan to join us for
Together Tuesdays
September 12, 2023**

(Please see p. 4 for more details.)

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to share all of the highlights of my summer sabbatical, but I will share one of the most surprising experiences... On July 2, I was in Trondheim, Norway worshipping at the National (Lutheran) Cathedral (founded in 1070AD, completed around 1300AD). I wasn't expecting to see many worshipers in attendance. After all, for years I've been hearing about declining church attendance in Northern European (and US) churches. Besides, it was a beautiful summer day!

Yet, to my surprise, the 1850 seat cathedral was packed with worshipers. Granted it turned out to be World Mission Sunday with Bishops from multiple countries (Indonesia, Madagascar, Japan, Mali, et. al) in attendance, but still... It struck me how easy it is to listen to the voices crying out about the demise of the Church, particularly those churches labeled "mainline," "liturgical," and/or "traditional." You know what I mean—churches like Central Lutheran.

The title of a recent blog in *The Atlantic* gave me pause. "Why So Many Americans Have Stopped Going to Church" (Isabel Fattal; August 3, 2023). While pointing to the decline in church attendance over the past several decades, the article stated, "The decline is not just about religious institutions; it's about society itself. Equally troubling the article asks, "Are Americans losing their ability to incorporate religion—or any kind of intentional community—into their lives?" Jake Meador, the editor in chief of the quarterly magazine *Mere Orthodoxy* proposes that churches could better serve their members by asking more of them. He asserts: "A vibrant, life-giving church requires more, not less, time and energy from its members. It asks people to prioritize one another over our career, to prioritize prayer and time reading scripture over accomplishment ... Churches could model better, truer sorts of communities, ones in which the hungry are fed, the weak are lifted up, and the proud are cast down. Creating an environment where people can ask more of one another, and give more in turn, seems like a wise rule of thumb for any community. If only American life didn't make such a prospect feel so daunting."

Perhaps he's on to something. First and foremost, our primary purpose as a body of Christ is to gather in worship to praise and glorify God, to be fed and nourished at Christ's table, to hear the word of God and to support one another as siblings drawn together in community. Then, having been strengthened for the journey, we are called to: love one another, nurture faithful living, serve those in need, and share the gospel.

Central needs you! We need each other! Your presence in worship... Your gifts of time, talents, and treasure... Your whole heart, mind, body... All of you! And so, as we launch into another program year, I'd like to invite you to increase your participation in our life together. May we individually and collectively strive to grow more fully into faithful living and generous giving... All to the glory of God!

In Christ's Abiding Love,
Pastor Laurie

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN

*"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."
Rom. 15:4*

Dear members of the body of Christ at Central,

We have had a wondrous Summer which included among other things our Garden Worship, Vacation Bible School, Season of Creation and closing out our Summer with our study of Civic Life and Faith. One of the main things we emphasized in the Season of Creation is that all has become new (2 Cor. 5:17) and that the new life in Christ is for us right now as we remain rooted in God's living soil. In the Season of Creation we celebrated that – how wondrous is this new creation we live in and the way God provides for us new opportunities every day. The study in our Civic Life and Faith class has caused many people to see the same thing not as optimistically – reflecting on our civic life and the way discourse is happening between people on both sides of the political aisle – we see new things, and we aren't so sure we like them. Some of us aren't sure what to make of this "new" world around us, and we feel discouraged and exhausted.

Part of the challenge we have been wrestling through in our Civic Life and Faith class is simply that our world today is so different than the world of the Reformation from where much of our theology comes not to mention the world of the New Testament or Old Testament. Most notably for our class, even the very idea of democracy was not in their worldview. We simply live in different times and different places. It leads some to question if our scriptures and sacred traditions speak to a new world. If so, how?

As we look at our scriptures and traditions, though, we find amazing application to a new situation in a new world. Paul reminds us in Romans 15 above the scriptures written in a very different time and place (in his case, the Old Testament as related to his first century world) were written for our instruction and in order to provide us hope. That was just as true then as now. The new creation we are in Christ makes alive the scripture in our hearts for a new day.

Beginning on September 12, our Together Tuesday programming will kick off again. In the adult class we will be beginning a series called "a new church, a new world." In it, we will be talking about how we relate to the world around us as Biblical Lutheran Christians in 2023. Just as the world around us is new, so too are we the new creation in Christ and we will talk about how we can reflect that identity in the world around us.

Please join us!

Pastor Ben



**Central's Chorale Resumes Rehearsals
in the Nicki Hanson Choir Room
Beginning Wednesday, September 6th
7:00—8:45pm**

Talk to ElRay if you're interested in finding out more.

**Last Summer Worship Service at the Garden
September 10th at 11am**

In addition to our 8:30am worship service, our 11am service returns to the sanctuary on September 17. If you haven't experienced the Garden Service in the midst of God's abundant creation, please join us on Sept. 3rd or 10th (2345 Laura St, Springfield).

A special word of thanks to Ike Olsson for welcoming us to this sacred space for the fourth summer in a row!

**Together Tuesdays at Central
begins September 12th**

5:15-6:00pm Community meal in the Parish Hall

6:00-6:45pm Music Together in the Gathering Room (children ages 0-5,
accompanied by a parent/caregiver)

6:00-6:45pm Children's Choir in the Nicki Hanson Choir Room
(Kindergartner-5th graders)

6:00-7:00pm Adult Education in the Library

Worship CDs or DVDs Available

If you do not have access to the internet to watch the 8:30am worship service via live-stream and would enjoy participating in worship, please let the church office know, 541-345-0395. We will be happy to mail you either a CD or DVD of Sunday's worship service.



CLC Children/Youth Music Programming

CLC Children's Choir

1,2,3,4 – we can't wait one minute more! It's time for singing, clapping, listening, and growing in CLC's Children's Choir. All children in kindergarten to 5th grade are invited to join our vibrant group of young musicians who learn music fundamentals, serve their community through music, and build lasting bonds together. Rehearsals take place in the Choir Rehearsal Room on Tuesday nights, 6-6:45pm.

CLC Junior Cantor Program – New This Year!

For choristers who are ready for more music and more leadership, we are expanding our children's choir roles to include Junior Cantors. Requirements for this additional role include: participation in Children's Choir for 1 year, 4th grade or older, willingness to stay until 7:15pm on Tuesdays, and completion of a simple audition process.

Music Together – CLC Cohort

Our CLC community is blessed to have musical participation woven throughout all generations of our membership. It all starts with the nationally renowned program Music Together. This program is offered for full tuition to the broader Eugene/Springfield community, and CLC subsidizes the tuition for a Tuesday evening cohort of our church community – this means anyone in our CLC family: children, grandchildren, great nieces/nephews, etc. Courses are 10 weeks long and start following our Together Tuesday meal. Please contact our Music Together Center Director, Lindsey Rodgers, if you would like to join our CLC cohort on Tuesday nights!

Questions?

Lindsey Rodgers, CLC Children's Choir Director and Music Together Center Director
lindsey.henriksen@gmail.com (cell) 541-514-3479

To find out more about Music Together [click here](#).

Another Year of Campus Ministry to UO and LCC begins!

Christus House

This month we are welcoming both new and returning students for another year. We are thrilled that so many residents of Christus House return at such a high rate, even as we celebrate the influx of new energy and personality that each fall brings to the community. This new year sees returning residents Yulia Graham and Angel Acosta step into leadership roles in an intentional community of thirteen students. They'll join Deacon Clare at Camp Lutherwood on Friday, September 22-Sunday, September 24 to build relationship, their annual covenant for life together, and embark on a year of service and faith-fueling programming.

Hearth & Table

Our food security outreach to UO and LCC will also resume this month, with our first Thursday of service being September 28. We are so grateful to Chef Ryan for his 5 years of faithful service as Chef-Coordinator; we also look forward to welcoming a new chef this year. Through Hearth & Table, we are an ongoing agency partner of FOOD for Lane County, host site for the UO Duck Corps (a service corps of UO students that rotates each academic term) and community partner of the UO Basic Needs program.

This Winter (2023) marked the first time Hearth & Table was added to the official UO Events Calendar, which bumped our student engagement to twice our previous levels. Feeding up to 100 students per week is only possible through a vibrant volunteer commitment that centers students serving students, and we are excited to know the web of community making this happen will only grow. We can't wait to see what the coming year holds!

Want to help campus ministry?

Deacon Clare and the Campus Ministry Committee will be deepening opportunities for engagement between the congregation and campus ministry throughout the year, but the first opportunity is coming up fast!

God's Work, Our Hands Saturday: Christus House Clean-up

Join resident and congregational volunteers on **Saturday, September 9 at Christus House (1834 Potter St) from 10am-12:30pm** and be ready to get your hands dirty. We're going to give the interior some deep-clean love to get ready for our returning students. Please direct any questions, and RSVP, to Deacon Clare at clare@begoodsoil.org.

**RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW!
CAMP LUTHERWOOD FUNDRAISER
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1st (2:30-5:30pm)**



**Go, Fight, Win at
Harvest Homecoming!**

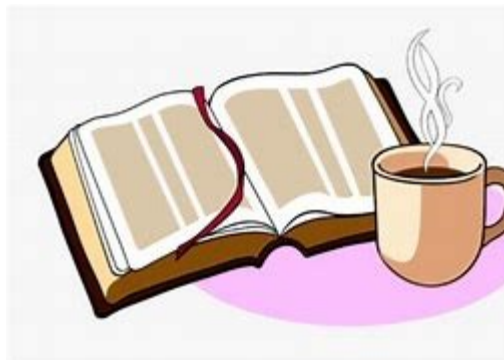
This new fundraising event invites Camp's biggest cheerleaders to ensure the future of their summertime alma mater. Here's how you can get involved by attending the in person event Sunday, October 1, participating in an online auction, donating to the auction, or becoming an event sponsor. To attend on October 1, you do need to buy tickets in advance. **To purchase tickets** and for more information see the Harvest Homecoming website: [Harvest Homecoming \(auctria.com\)](http://Harvest Homecoming (auctria.com))

**SAVE THE DATE
CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 AT CAMP LUTHERWOOD**

*"The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage, and keep on rising from the dead." (ELW 729)*

Join members of Central, United, and Emmaus for **The Church of Christ in Every Age**, an educational and empowering retreat for all ages, engaging the question we're all asking: what it means to be church in this time and place. Come, reflect, listen, and engage on where the church has been, where the church is, and where the church is going. This intergenerational programming is for confirmation-age up through our elders. But bring the kids, too! CUE Youth & Family Coordinator Crystal Miller will bring the games and fun for all our little ones.

Save the date and watch for registration to open soon!



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).

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY RESUMES ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH VIA ZOOM

This Bible study follows the weekly lectionary (usually focused on the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday and requires no prep. We meet on Zoom from 11am-noon each Wednesday to prepare our hearts, minds, and ears to hear the word of God. Email Pastor Laurie (pastorlaurie@welcometocentral.org) or Pastor Ben (pastorben@welcometocentral.org) to receive the link 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 (rb24berg@aol.com). Newcomers are always welcome!

BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS AT CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thank you for showing your support of the community by sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive. The need for blood is constant and your efforts help ensure a safe and stable blood supply is available for people in need.

August 22, 2023

Collection Goal: 19 units

Actual Units Collected: 21 units

Percent of Goal: 110.5%

First time donors: 4

Actual Sign Up: 26

Actual Presenting Donors: 24

Type O donors: 8

Power Red Donors: 3



Stephen Ministry Sunday September 24, 2023

Join us in worship on Sunday, September 24th as we give thanks to God for all of our Stephen Ministers at Central—celebrating both care givers and care receivers. Then, plan to stay after 8:30 worship, or come early for the 11:00 service, to partake of a tasty breakfast and hear a presentation on Stephen Ministry. This event will be held in between services, in the Parish Hall from 9:45-10:45.

The Stephen Ministry Team will be assisting in worship that morning. Then, during the Education hour, leaders will be sharing details about the Stephen Ministry program that has continued at Central Lutheran Church for well over 30 years. While enjoying a delicious breakfast, you will be hearing a brief presentation and watching a short video about the program and ways you too can become involved.

Also, for those who sense a call to Stephen Ministry, a new training course will launch beginning in January, 2024. This extensive training will give you the tools to become a Stephen Minister Caregiver and put God's Love into Action!

The breakfast menu includes:
Quiche, sausage, fresh fruit, garden salad, croissants, coffee/tea/juice.

Thanks to Thrivent Financial for covering all the expenses for this meal.

The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. to discuss ***Demon Copperhead*** by Barbara Kingsolver. Set in present-day Appalachia, this retelling of a literary classic (David Copperfield) is told from the point of view of Damon Fields, a boy born to a trailer-park mother and a father who has disappeared. In her acknowledgements, Ms. Kingsolver says, "I'm grateful to Charles Dickens for writing David Copperfield, his impassioned critique of institutional poverty and its damaging effects on children in his society. Those problems are still with us." The discussion will be led by Meg Hicks.

Looking Ahead: The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, Oct. 9, 2023, at 7:00pm to discuss ***The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of the Donner Party*** by Daniel James Brown. A New York Times Book Review says, "An ideal pairing of talent and material.... Engrossing.... A deft and ambitious storyteller." The #1 bestselling author of "The Boys in the Boat" details the epic saga of American emigration with rich exploration of personal, psychological, physiological, topographical, sociological, and historical context. A story at once tragic and courageous, it inspires both awe and soul searching about how we humans choose to meet life's challenges. The discussion will be led by Kathleen Heinz.



WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS



Terry Chap, Chuck Dietz, Dal Haverland, Doug & Jody Martin, Gretchen & Jeff Simas, Gary Wolfe, and the family of David Zhou, and Ed Mosman upon the death of his sister, Elaine Mosman and former member, Archie Kleingartner upon the death of his beloved spouse, Dorothy.

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.



Oregon Synod



**Oregon Synod Day of Learning
via Zoom
Saturday, September 23rd
9:30am-3:00pm**

Plan to join us on Saturday September 23 when the Oregon Synod is offering an online "Day of Learning." This will include sessions on faith filled exploration, new practical and innovative ideas of our life together, tips for faithful church leadership, tools for relational fundraising, spaces for deep listening, how to implement congregational commitment to Reconciling in Christ, and much more. The day will begin and end with shared song, scripture, and prayer. Of particular interest is that Pastor Ben is a co-leader of the one of the sessions: "From the Community of Corinth to COVID: How Can Spiritual Growth Emerge from Crisis?"

Cost is \$35 for over 21 (under 21 is free). To register, click on the link:

[Day of Learning 2023 \(regfox.com\)](https://regfox.com).

Morning sessions (10:30am-12:15pm):

- Option 1: From the Community of Corinth to COVID:
How Can Spiritual Growth Emerge from Crisis?
- Option 2: Storytelling and Relational Fundraising
- Option 3: Sacred Encounter as Deep Listening
- Option 4: We Are RIC (Reconciling in Christ), Now What?

Afternoon sessions (1:00-2:30pm):

- Option 1: The Basics of Supporting Vitality in Congregations
- Option 2: Sacred Encounter Across Privilege
- Option 3: Exploring the "Three Pathways" or "Four Options" for Congregations with Decreasing Resources
- Option 4: Racial Affinity Space for BIPOC Leaders

Central Lutheran Church

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

	Jan-July 2023	YTD 2023 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-July 2022
Regular Envelopes	\$ 322,784.67	\$ 370,416.69	\$ (47,632.02)	\$ 315,696.41
Other Offerings	4,144.30	4,550.00	\$ (405.70)	\$ 3,162.61
Holiday Offerings	10,084.00	13,733.68	\$ (3,649.68)	\$ 9,154.00
Other Income	118,452.17	21,755.69	\$ 96,696.48	\$ 54,642.15
Departmental Income	78,541.16	75,082.04	\$ 3,459.12	\$ 63,427.80
Total Income	\$ 534,006.30	\$ 485,538.10	\$ 48,468.20	\$ 446,082.97
Total Expenses	\$ 534,569.28	\$ 505,075.73	\$ 29,493.55	\$ 470,567.03
YTD Net Income	\$ (562.98)	\$ (19,537.63)	\$ 18,974.65	\$ (24,484.06)
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 19,293.75	\$ 19,293.75	\$ -	\$ 22,270.50
Net after carryover applied	\$ 18,730.77	\$ (243.88)	\$ 18,974.65	\$ (2,213.56)

ADDRESS CHANGES



Please make the following changes in
your directory
Christine Prescott
3732 N Clarey St Eugene 97402

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

WEBSITE: WWW.WELCOMETOCENTRAL.ORG