

September  
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

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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

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

# BACK TO

# SCHOOL

# Blessing



**September 8, 2024**

**8:30am & 11:00am worship**

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

Also: Together Tuesdays resumes on September 10th along with launching of our fall programs.

**(See page 4 for more details!)**

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE



Dear Friends in Christ,

For a number of years the ELCA has been promoting and encouraging congregations around the country to participate in a day of service using the ELCA's tagline: "God's Work. Our Hands." While I'm all for "letting our lights shine before others so that they might see our good works and give glory to God,"

I've typically resisted setting aside a day of service. Not because I'm opposed to the idea mind you, but rather because I believe God calls us, not just to a day of service, or even a year of service, but a lifetime of service!

At Central our mission statement reminds us that we are called: 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. I believe this is lived out whenever and wherever we individually and collectively are striving to live into our varied vocational callings as God's people for the sake of this world God so loves.

And to be honest, I am continually humbled and awed by the various ways I witness our mission/God's mission being lived out in the daily lives of the people of this faith community. From feeding the families housed at First Place Family Annex to making sandwiches for the unhoused, to working with the Eugene Mission, FISH, Food for Lane County, to our quilters crafting quilts for LWR, and our own outreach efforts to feed food insecure college students through Hearth & Table, and so many more ways each and every day. Together we truly are the hands and feet of Jesus!

This year the kick-off for our Together Tuesdays will highlight another opportunity to serve our neighbors in need. Two Central members, Jolynn Fabiano and Karen Lacey, have been working with a local non-profit and a coalition of volunteers partnering with Catholic Community Services to welcome and support refugees and asylum seekers who are relocating to Lane County. Through its Refugee and Immigrant Service Program (RISP) there are a number of ways we can become involved in this rewarding work. Our guest speaker Tuesday, September 10 at 6pm will be Zoë Livelybrooks of RISP. There will also be a hands-on service project where we will assemble personal kits for the incoming refugee families. Supplies have already been purchased thanks to a CL Foundation Grant so all you need to do is show up for dinner at 5:15pm and come with eager hands and hearts to learn more about this important ministry of welcoming new neighbors into our Eugene/Springfield community.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Laurie

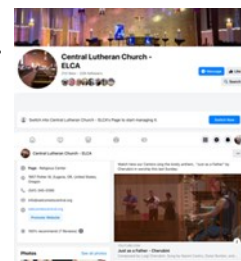
## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN

“See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand!” Gal. 6:11

Dear family of God at Central,

The Apostle Paul used an innovative form of communication for religious organizing – he wrote letters. Letters, of course, were not new, but using them to share the good news of God was something no other follower of the Jesus movement had done as far as we know. What’s more, if one looks at the Old Testament, one finds very few letters at all (only a few exceptions such as Jer. 29:1-23, Ezra 7:11-26). Instead, Paul is trying something new in order to communicate to a new situation – many small churches being founded who have neither scripture nor trained leaders. Thus, Paul, and many after Paul, try writing letters to convey the good news about God. It was a new way to convey timeless truths.

One new way we have to convey timeless truths is through our social media. For any who have not noticed, we have had a much increased presence on social media over the past 4 months. First, we have our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/clceugene>. It has up to 15 posts per week on it – check it out and follow us!



Another new space is on Central’s YouTube channel. You can find our YouTube channel here and subscribe to the channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@centrallutheranchurch-euge165/videos>.



Appalachian Lord's Prayer - Sowash  
2 views • 1 day ago

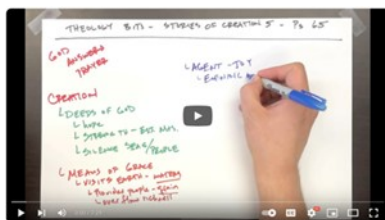
Youtube is a platform that allows us to upload videos. Each week, we upload around 7 videos. These include clips from our Sunday Worship Service, such as any special music and the sermon.

What’s more, we also have original content created just for Social Media. Each week, I create a video devotional called “Two Minutes Together.” This is a very brief devotional to start your week and is based around the upcoming Sunday’s readings.



Two Minutes Together - Worship  
Central Lutheran Church - Eugene, ...

Also, I’ve been creating an educational video each week called “Theology Bits”. These are



Theology Bits - Stories of Creation 5 - Psalm 65  
Central Lutheran Church - Eugene, ...

longer videos (usually 8-12 minutes) where you see my hand in front of a whiteboard teaching on a particular topic. Many of them are in series and you can find the whole series of videos in a list under the “playlists” tab in YouTube so you could watch them in a row (found here: <https://www.youtube.com/@centrallutheranchurch-euge165/playlists>). These were developed specifically because so

many of our community are not, for various reasons, able to make it to our normal educational opportunities and they provide a space to have careful and thorough teaching for all. We do all of these things to try to find new ways to share the Gospel. I hope you are able to check them out. If you have any trouble finding any of it, feel free to reach out to me.

Pastor Ben

## Fall Programming Resumes

### **Together Tuesdays resume on September 10th.**

The schedule is as follows:

5:15pm – 6:00pm	Meal served in the Parish Hall
5:45pm – 6:50pm	Children's Choir in the Nicki Hanson Choir Room
6:00pm – 6:45pm	Music Together in the Gathering Room (see note below)
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Adult Education in the Library
7:00pm – 7:30pm	Junior Cantors in the Choir Room

Note: Registration is required for MT classes [musictogethereugene.com](http://musictogethereugene.com) with fee waived for Central families (Contact Lindsey for coupon code)

**Chorale Rehearsals** resume on Wednesday, September 11th at 7pm

**Handbell Ensemble Rehearsals** resume on Thursday, September 19th at 5:15pm

## Campus Ministry & Christus House News

### **HELP NEEDED!**

**A work party** is scheduled for Saturday, September 7th from 10am—2pm to prepare Christus House for new and returning residents. Come as you're able, stay as long as you can.

### **Looking Ahead...**

**Hearth & Table**, a home-cooked meal for college students, co-sponsored by Central & Food For Lane County, resumes on Thursday, October 3rd from 6:30-7:30pm in the Parish Hall. Meals are served family style or as to-go.

**Vespers Worship**, an opportunity for college students as well as friends of Central, United, & Emmaus to engage in a contemplative evening worship service will launch on October 3rd at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

## The Prayer Ministry Lending Library

The 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:

*Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*  
by Tim Keller

Christians are taught in their churches and schools that prayer is the most powerful way to experience God. But few receive instruction or guidance in how to make prayer genuinely meaningful. In his book *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, renowned pastor Timothy Keller delves into the many facets of this everyday act. With his trademark insights and energy, Keller offers biblical guidance as well as specific prayers for certain situations, such as dealing with grief, loss, love, and forgiveness. He discusses ways to make prayers more personal and powerful, and how to establish a practice of prayer that works for each reader.



## WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Gwen Acker, Catherine Bailey, Megan Bryson, Karlyn Campbell, Richard Catlin, Terry Chap, Gayle Henry, Doug & Jody Martin, Marni Reinmuth, and Roger Smith.

Prayers of comfort for Debbie McCrory and family upon the death of her father, Gary Harwood who died on August 29th.

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

## **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 of 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 questions contact Sally Diehm at 541-852-9997.

## **SPREAD THE WORD—MUSIC TOGETHER FALL TERM BEGINS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9th**

Central is the host site for Music Together. Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers serves as the Center Director and classes of 10-week sessions are offered throughout the week by trained Music Together teachers: Lauralie Kallinen, Emily Pfeifer, and Sophie Therrell. These classes are designed for children ages 0-5, accompanied by a parent/grandparent or other adult caregiver. To register or for more info, visit their website at [musictogether Eugene.com](http://musictogether Eugene.com).



## BOOK CLUB NEWS



The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, at 7:00pm to discuss The Women by Kristin Hannah. (472 pages) Historical Fiction novelist Kristin Hannah's newest book follows twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath. After hearing the words, "Women can be Heroes too", Frankie follows her older brother to Vietnam as she joins the Army Nurse Corps. There she encounters how life can be a gamble each and every day. Friendships run deep during war but run even deeper afterwards. She returns from war to find more battles and a divided America. The Women is a story of one woman who went to war but shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and make sacrifices for their country that often go unnoticed. The discussion will be led by Karie Shorack.

Looking Ahead: 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. (403 pages, plus extensive notes.) 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.

**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](mailto: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  
September 11 & 25  
from 1:00-2:00pm  
in the Terrace Room

**Save the Date:**  
**Chi Rho Lecture Series coming in October!**

**Topic: "I believe, help my unbelief!" (Re-)Discovering Faith in Moments of Crisis**

**Speaker: Dr. Dennis Lindsay**

**When: Oct. 18 (Fri.) – Oct. 20 (Sun.)**

**What:** 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.



**Who:** Dennis R. Lindsay (Dr. Theology, 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.

**Reminder:**

If you are not currently receiving "Central's Weekly Events" email in your inbox, let the church office know ([info@welcometocentral.org](mailto:info@welcometocentral.org)) and we'll make sure you are added to Central's listserv.



## 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](mailto:info@welcometocentral.org).

The Church Council met on July 17, 2024 at Chuck & Marla Swenson's Home in Creswell.

**Treasurer's Report:** (see last page)

### **Action Items:**

**Election of Council Officers:** Council elected Debra Knebel as the new Council President, with Jean Clancey to serve as Vice-President. Jack Bennett will continue to serve as Secretary. Dan Buckwalter and Susan Kilber were introduced as newly elected Council members. Matt Houglund was on vacation and will be introduced next month.

**Endowment Committee:** Council approved the Endowment Committee's recommendation that Donna Bennett and Stephanie Riess be appointed to serve on the Endowment Committee for renewable three-year terms effective July 1. Further, Council acknowledged with thanks and appreciation Doug Martin and Kelly Smith, each having served two terms on the Endowment 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 consist 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 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. Beverages (coffee, tea, iced tea, lemonade, and/or water) are provided by the host/hostess with group members bringing their own preference of white or red wine to share.

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

## Central Lutheran Church

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

	Jan-Jul 24	YTD 2024 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-Jul 2023
Regular Envelopes	\$ 338,575.96	\$ 362,000.00	\$ (23,424.04)	\$ 322,784.67
Other Offerings	\$ 4,045.00	\$ 4,550.00	\$ (505.00)	\$ 4,144.30
Holiday Offerings	\$ 4,680.00	\$ 7,300.00	\$ (2,620.00)	\$ 10,084.00
Other Income	\$ 29,016.28	\$ 17,178.95	\$ 11,837.33	\$ 118,452.17
Departmental Income	\$ 130,935.93	\$ 90,501.79	\$ 40,434.14	\$ 78,541.16
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 507,253.17</b>	<b>\$ 481,530.74</b>	<b>\$ 25,722.43</b>	<b>\$ 534,006.30</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 562,878.66</b>	<b>\$ 543,021.98</b>	<b>\$ 19,856.68</b>	<b>\$ 534,569.28</b>
<b>YTD Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (55,625.49)</b>	<b>\$ (61,491.24)</b>	<b>\$ 5,865.75</b>	<b>\$ (562.98)</b>
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 33,223.19	\$ 33,223.19	-	\$ 19,293.75
<b>Net after carryover applied</b>	<b>\$ (22,402.30)</b>	<b>\$ (28,268.05)</b>	<b>\$ 5,865.75</b>	<b>\$ 18,730.77</b>



### Address changes

Please make these changes in your Directory

Karen Jensen  
650 Harlow Rd Apt. 118  
Springfield OR 94777

**CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
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