

January-February  
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*

### 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

## IMPORTANT REMINDER:

**2023 Budget Presentation**  
**Sunday, January 22, 2023**

**Parish Hall (9:45-10:45am)**

This is an opportunity for us to discuss the 2023 Mission & Ministry Budget before being asked to vote on it at the semi-annual meeting the following week.

**Semi-Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 29, 2023**

**Parish Hall (9:45-10:45am)**

The primary purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2023 Mission & Ministry Budget which requires a quorum of 50 voting members. In addition to the budget, the meeting will include reports on other important matters. Following the meeting, the Central Lutheran Foundation will call its meeting to share highlights from 2022 and plans for the coming year.

**Please plan to join us!**

***FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE***

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2-6

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With a heart full of love for all the saints who make up the body of Christ here at Central, I want to join the Apostle Paul in giving thanks to God for all of you. As we approached the end of the year, I must confess there was some hand-wringing going on as some among us were beginning to worry that we'd have a significant budget shortfall for 2022.

However, not only did the community faithfully step up to meet the challenges of the rather ambitious budget we passed in 2022, we surpassed our expenses and ended the year with a \$33,075 carry-over to begin the new year. Our gifted and dedicated Treasurer, Charlotte Bontrager, reported to the Church Council that giving in December was the highest on record since 2008!

Needless to say, I am humbled by your generosity and commitment to the ministry we share, the ministry to which God has called us and continues to call us. So, while a heart-felt thank you in any language seems too small a gesture, perhaps more appropriately, I truly should echo Paul by saying, "Thanks be to God!"

Thanks be to God for the abundant gifts that flow from within our faith community as we seek to live into the future plans God has in store for us. Thanks be to God for the life we share in Christ. Thanks be to God for the individual members who make up the body of Christ and for the collective wisdom and gifts of the Spirit that provide all that we need, and so much more!

In Christ's Abiding Love,  
Pastor Laurie



[Two of John the Baptist's disciples asked Jesus], "Rabbi,...where are you abiding?" Jesus said to them, "Come and see." (John 1:38b-39a)

Dear members of the family of God at Central,

We are in the season of Epiphany. The term literally means "shining forth" as in God shining forth in our life. Recently a colleague who serves another congregation said, "Epiphany is a fancy term that means God shows up." Not only is it the season where we look to where the glory of God shines forth in the ministry of Jesus, but it is the season when we recognize who God is in our own lives—where God shows up.

In the beginning of the Gospel of John Jesus is met by two seekers who want to know more about him and where he lives and abides. Jesus responds to these seekers, "Come and see." He doesn't start teaching, he doesn't give them quick answers, he invites. He invites them to journey with him and share an experience with him. Jesus knows that words can only go so far, but to invite people into community and experience can be transformative.

There is a premise behind Jesus' invitation. It suggests that if they come and see, there really will be something worth seeing! That is very true in Jesus' life as well as our own lives in Christ. God shows up in our lives every day and the power of God transforms us and empowers us to act in our communities and lives.

This program year, our theme is to (Re)Engage and show the way that God is continually acting in our community – in our daily lives, in our church, and in our larger community. We have been focusing on telling our story. To encourage all of us to talk about those times when God has shown up in our own lives and by telling our story we encourage others to "come and see" where God is alive and active in all of us.

Come and see. God is alive and active in our church and in our lives. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Ben

## **CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**

### **A ministry of Central, United, & Emmaus (CUE)**

#### **All Age Activities:**

Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – All ages. Join us from 10-1pm for a snow-themed event. Activities will include games and crafts (hosted at United). Our faith focus for this time will center on God's unique creation of each of us just like snowflakes are unique. All participants should bring a lunch and we will need at least 2 adult volunteers for this event. Please let Crystal know by Sunday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> if your kids will be participating or if you're able to help out.

Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – All ages. Join us from 10-1pm for a Valentine's Celebration (hosted at United). All participants should bring a lunch and we will need at least 2 adult volunteers for this event. Please let Crystal know by Sunday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> if your kids will be participating or if you are able to help out.

#### **Elementary students—2nd to 6th grade:**

Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade: We will meet at Round 1 for Bowling and Pizza from 12:30-2. The pizza will be provided by the church and students will need to pay \$10 each to cover the rental cost of shoes and the lane. Parents are welcome to join the fun. Please let me know ASAP if your kids/family will be participating.

#### **Middle/High School students—6th to 12th grade:**

Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> – Youth group will be meeting at Luther House on the East side of Central from 12-2pm (food provided). We will meet and create Valentine's Day cards to be sent to members of our congregations who are homebound, ill, or would otherwise benefit from a card from the church.

## **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER VBS**

**June 26 - 30 (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.

To register, click the link or go online at <https://forms.gle/1RfkFchQEEQiYmd76>

**JOIN US AT CENTRAL  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 4pm**

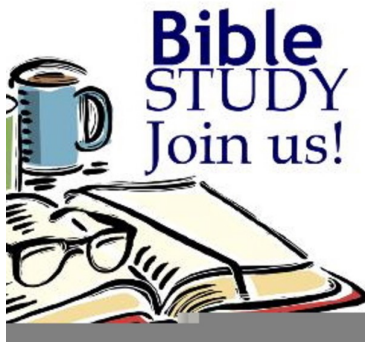
**WINTER VESPERS**

**A contemplative program of poetry and organ music**



**Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers, Organ / Clare Josef-Maier, Reader**

**ARVO PÄRT + REBECCA GROOM TE VELDE  
JAN PIETERSZOOM SWEELINCK + ALICE JORDAN**



## **OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND TO ENGAGE IN NURTURING FAITHFUL LIVING!**

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

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](mailto: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](mailto:rb24@aol.com). Newcomers are always welcome!

### **SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATION**

The Sunday morning education hour for adults meets in the Library from 9:45-10:45am. In conjunction with the Prayer Ministry Team, our focus in February will center around prayer as a community of faith. Our time together will provide opportunities to share our faith and prayer life with one another. Children are invited to meet each week in the Godly Play room to grow in faith through story-time, crafts, and other activities.

### **TOGETHER TUESDAY ADULT EDUCATION**

The class on Tuesdays is currently going through a series entitled "Lutheran Theology: A Grammar of Faith" that explores what it means to be Lutheran in the 21st century, how that identity provides a distinctive and important style of speaking into our current world. All are welcome to join at any level of backgrounds.

## **TOGETHER TUESDAY INDOOR WINTER PICNIC**



You're invited to a winter potluck picnic supper at Together Tuesday, January 31, 2023. The meal begins at 5:15pm followed by our usual programming: Music Together, Children's Choir, & Adult Education at 6pm.

Can you help by bringing a kid-friendly, picnic-style dish to share? Ideas include: fried or baked chicken, deviled eggs, baked beans, cole slaw, green salad, potato salad, or fruit salad.

Coordinator: Ginger Bopp  
[gingerbopp@gmail.com](mailto:gingerbopp@gmail.com)

Please let Ginger know what you plan to bring so we'll have plenty of food!

## **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER returns to Central on Together Tuesday, Feb. 21st starting at 5:15pm**

**Join us as we celebrate Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) &  
as we prepare to enter into the season of Lent.**

Our journey through the 40 days of Lent begins with Worship and the Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22nd, at noon and 7:30pm. Thereafter, the schedule for Lent will be Together Tuesdays (Feb. 28, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28) with Soup Supper from 5:15-6pm, followed by Music Together, Children's Choir, and Adult Education at 6pm and concluding with Holden Evening Prayer worship and a Lenten meditation at 7pm.

## Highlights from Church Council

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

The Church Council met on December 15, 2022

**Treasurer's Report:** See last page

### **Action Items:**

Church Van: The Church van has been donated to St. Vincent DePaul. The Council thanks Chuck and Dave Swenson for removing the church logo before it was donated.

Signage Project: There were two proposals for the completion of the signage project with two different costs. The Church Council moved to present both options to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting for a final decision.

St. Cecilia Fund: The Council approved a motion from the Endowment Committee to update policies of the St. Cecilia Music Endowment Fund to make them more consistent with the policies of the Endowment Fund.

Endowment Distributions: The Council approved the recommendation of the Endowment Fund to distribute the following funds in 2023:

Compassion Fund: \$2,500

Christus House Community Fund: \$1,000

Collaborative Youth Ministry: \$7,500

Ministry Support – Personnel: \$10,000

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$1,000

Chi Rho: \$2,500

Sharing the Gospel: \$7,500

Prayer Ministry: \$500

Signage Project: \$5,000

Total: \$37,500

The Pastors' Housing Allowance for 2023 was passed.

## Camp Lutherwood's Annual Meeting

**Saturday, February 4th at 9:30am (via Zoom)**

The annual meeting gives supporting congregations like Central an opportunity to hear updates on the ministry that takes place year-round at Camp Lutherwood. Contact Board member, Debbie Knebel ([knebel@gmail.com](mailto:knebel@gmail.com)), if you'd like to attend the meeting or find out more news about Camp Lutherwood.



## BOOK CLUB NEWS



The CLC Book Club will meet via ZOOM on Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. to discuss Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley. As a bi-racial, un-enrolled tribal member and the product of a scandal, Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in—both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. When her family is struck by tragedy, Daunis puts her dreams on hold to care for her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother's hockey team. After Daunis witnesses a shocking murder that thrusts her into a criminal investigation, she agrees to go undercover. But the deceptions—and deaths—keep piling up and soon the threat strikes too close to home. How far will she go to protect her community if it means tearing apart the only world she's ever known? The discussion will be led by Sally Diehm.

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](mailto:rb24berg@aol.com). The ZOOM link will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

## WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Betsy Berg, Terry Chap, Chuck Dietz, Sheri Hammerstad, Claudia Hardwick, Gale Hatleberg, Dal Haverland, Doug & Jody Martin, Marni Reinmuth, Gretchen & Jeff Simas. We also pray for those who grieve: Pastor Ben at the death of his uncle, Dave Brown; Dan Buckwalter at the death of his brother, Michael; Judy Van Scholten & family at the sudden death of John; and the friends & family of Helen Parker upon her death.



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

## INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

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

# Central Lutheran Church

## Jan-Dec 2022 Income:Expense to Budget - Jan-Dec 2021 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-Dec 2022	YTD 2022 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-Dec 2021
Regular Envelopes	\$ 604,288.21	\$ 625,000.00	\$ 20,711.79)	\$ 542,314.83
Other Offerings	7,780.74	6,000.00	\$ 1,780.74	\$ 1,795.08
Holiday Offerings	28,614.00	15,000.00	\$ 13,614.00	\$ 31,800.00
Other Income	64,920.24	22,655.00	\$ 42,265.24	\$ 95,370.19
Departmental Income	100,627.49	121,130.00	\$ (20,502.51)	\$ 84,378.21
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 806,230.68</b>	<b>\$ 789,785.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,445.68</b>	<b>\$ 755,658.31</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 811,334.08</b>	<b>\$ 827,963.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,628.92)</b>	<b>\$ 778,814.68</b>
<b>YTD Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (5,103.40)</b>	<b>\$ (38,178.00)</b>	<b>\$ 33,074.60</b>	<b>\$ (23,156.37)</b>
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 38,178.00	\$ 38,178.00	\$ -	\$ 61,334.00
Net after carryover applied	\$ 33,074.60	\$ -	\$ 33,074.60	\$ 38,177.63

**THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS RESPONSE TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S UPDATE ON THE 2022 BUDGET CHALLENGES, WE ENDED THE YEAR ON A POSITIVE NOTE!**

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Marilyn Tollefson  
 c/o Brookdale Meridian  
 801 Gillaspie Dr. #136  
 Boulder CO 80305  
 (303) 945-4764

Debbie Rosenbaum  
 350 Pearl St #407; Eugene 97401  
 541-954-8013

David & Marsha Dennis  
 1911 Lake Isle Dr Eugene OR 97401



### CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

WEBSITE: [WWW.CONNECTTOCENTRAL.ORG](http://WWW.CONNECTTOCENTRAL.ORG)