

THE CENTRALITE

April 2021



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN
CHRIST CONGREGATION

Central's Staff

Pastor Laurie A. Jones
pastorlaurie@
welcometocentral.org
(206-354-6756)

Vicar Ben Nickodemus
Pastoral Intern

Minister to Christus House
& Campus Ministry
Sister Clare Josef-Maier

Organist/Choirmaster
A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Associate Organist
Lindsey H. Rodgers

Parish Nurse
Sally Diehm

Parish Administrator
Kristi Hoiland

Financial Manager
Cindy Culpepper

Children, Youth & Family
Coordinator Crystal Miller

Church Council

President, Dennis Lindsay
Vice Pres, Larry Sutton
Secretary, Jack Bennett
Treas, Charlotte Bontrager
Matt Haugen
Chris Henry
Lauralie Kallinen
Sonia Macke
Sheri Pyron

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

**WORSHIP WITH US AS WE CELEBRATE
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4th, 2021
at nine o'clock in the morning

**Festival Easter Worship at 9am either in person
(registration required; limited capacity) or via
live-stream.**

**Plus, join us at 11am via Zoom to share Easter
greetings with your Central Church Family.**



Picture courtesy of Kim Meyers

Dear Friends and Members of Central,

As I write this, I realize it's been exactly one year ago that Governor Brown first mandated Oregonians to hunker down. The universal message quickly became: "stay home/save lives." All non-essential travel was discouraged, while places of worship, schools, businesses, recreational facilities, sporting venues, government offices, etc. were virtually shut-down. Even gatherings among family members and friends were curtailed. To a person, we've all been impacted by this, unfortunately, some far more than others.

But... here are three things I've learned this past year:

1. There is nothing, not even a world-wide pandemic, that can shut-down the Church;
2. The Church is resilient, innovative, and fully capable of adapting to change; and
3. The Church is Christ's body **and** together we are the Church resonates with me even more today than it did a year ago.

And... here are three things I learned a long, long time ago:

1. God loves us;
2. God is good; and
3. God is with us—always.

Early on I heard a helpful metaphor reminding us that "while we may not all be in the same boat, we are in the same storm." A year later and that still fits. This has been quite a lengthy storm, to be sure. And if we're paying attention to the experts, the sun isn't fully shining down on us yet, and it won't be until more of us are fully vaccinated. That means it's not time yet to kick up our heels and celebrate the end of COVID-19.

Still... there is reason for us to celebrate. For starters, the Son has never stopped shining in our lives. And so, we will solemnly observe Holy Week and then will we celebrate The Resurrection of Our Lord with much jubilation and joy. The pages that follow will give you a sense of what is being planned. Much of it will still be done utilizing technology as we worship together either from our homes or within the sacred space of our beautiful sanctuary. If you do come in person, we'll still need everyone to follow OHA guidelines for best practices in order to ensure the health and well-being of ourselves and those we come in contact with around us. Soon and very soon, our lives will begin to return to some semblance of normalcy. In the meantime Just remember: God loves us; God is good; and God is with us—always!

In Christ's Abiding Love,

+Pastor Laurie

From the Desk of Vicar Ben

Easter from home

"[The young man said to the women at the empty tomb] go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." Mark 16:7-8

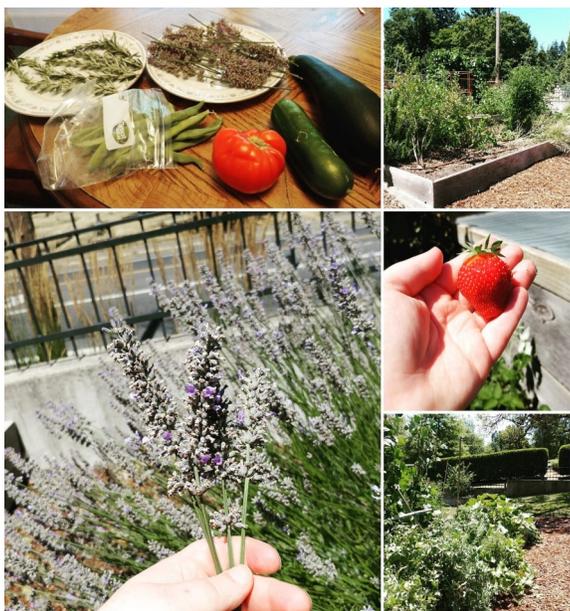
This is the conclusion of the Gospel of Mark. Isn't it an odd ending to a Gospel? Most are surprised that a Gospel would end "and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." In fact, some early Christians thought so. They actually added a number of additions to it to try and make it "more satisfactory" which are sometimes call the "Long Ending to Mark." The real Gospel, though, ended with the verses quoted above. It is surprising and shocking. Often the response to this statement is "well, this must not be accurate, because if they said nothing to anyone, then nobody would have heard anything about Jesus."

That sentiment is real, but I invite you to look at what the young man at the tomb says directly before, that Jesus would meet them in Galilee "there you will see him, just as he told you." It does not say that Jesus' revelation to them was dependent upon going and seeing the disciples. Instead, Jesus will meet them in Galilee whether they share this message or not. Further, where is Galilee? It is where these women already live. Jesus is going to meet them *at their homes*. The Gospel of Mark is saying that the risen Jesus will arrive – but not only for the apostles in Jerusalem. This ending to the Gospel of Mark is invitational. Jesus meets all of us in our homes. We do not need to be able to hear the "official message" from some centralized organization. That was particularly important in the ancient world where news spread so slowly. If people had to wait for a message from the apostles, depending upon how far they lived from Jerusalem, they could be waiting quite a long time. Rather than that, Jesus himself will appear to all those who are in relationship with him. What at first seems like it is a very restricted message (if the women don't say anything, then does anyone hear?) turns out to be incredibly open to everyone – everyone is in relationship with the resurrected Jesus wherever they are.

This is so very important this year at Easter. While the country is slowly beginning to open up, we still are largely working and living within our own home. The Gospel of Mark is telling us that Jesus is there. Just like those in Galilee are not at a disadvantage from those in Jerusalem, those of us who are at home are not at a disadvantage to those of us able to meet in person. The same risen Christ appears before us all.

In Christ's love,
Vicar Ben

Good Soil Campus Ministry Garden Expansion



Good Soil Campus Ministry (begoodsoil.org) has been going strong this past year despite the pandemic. Thankfully, we've been able to continue to serve our student neighbors both through our Christus House community and through Hearth & Table, our weekly food-security program. In fact, we've been ready to expand a little, and are working with Merrily Sutton to bring the Central Lutheran Church Garden under the campus ministry mission umbrella this coming spring!

Both Christus House and Hearth & Table program are servant-leader development missions. Christus House residents serve once-monthly throughout their residency alongside other UO and LCC students at the Hearth & Table meal, making this a true "peer-to-peer" service program. The CLC Garden has long provided food for the Student Food Pantry and to Hearth & Table; now the time is ripe to make the Garden, too, an example of what is possible with peer-to-peer service.

Not only do these programs foster hearts for and experiences of service, but Chef Ryan Josef-Maier equips young adults to become more knowledgeable and confident in lifelong tasks like preparing - and soon growing - healthy food. In addition to working with Christus House residents (who are **excited for this!**), we look forward to reconnecting with the Duck Corps, through the UO Holden Leadership Center, and exploring opportunities for internship for local horticulture students.



With this expansion, **we could use your help!**

We are collecting gardening supplies for use by student volunteers on their shifts, as many students have no access to such supplies themselves: gardening gloves, kneeling pads, small shovels, tools, etc. Please contact Sister Clare if you have extras you can contribute for this mission or are downsizing anytime soon.

Thank you for your ongoing support of campus ministry and the Garden ministry.

A Message from Caring4Creation

Celebrate Earth Day!

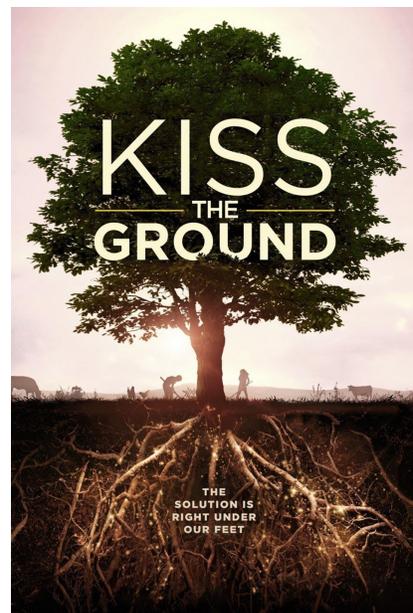
Thursday, April 22, 2021
Movie @ 7pm (via Zoom)

Activists, scientists, farmers and politicians turn to regenerative agriculture to save the planet's topsoil.

Trailer... <https://youtu.be/K3-V1j-zMZw>

Join the Webinar here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87168261757>



NEW LIFE BURSTS FORTH FROM THE EARTH

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Join us for worship as we celebrate Earth Day
Sunday, April 25th

Then, drop by at noon for *"The Blessing of the Garden"* as we prepare for Spring planting and Summer harvesting!



*Our mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus
by sharing the gospel ...*

Invite your family and friends to worship with us via live-stream

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2021

+ MAUNDY THURSDAY April 1

- Holy Communion in the parking lot
noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.

+ GOOD FRIDAY April 2

- The sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation from noon-3 p.m.

Prerecorded worship services will be available online by noon on both days. www.connecttocentral.org

EASTER SUNDAY April 4

Festival Worship
9 a.m.

live-streamed
and
in person
(registration for
in person worship
required)

www.connecttocentral.org

Questions? Call (541) 345-0395

Special thanks to Christine Prescott for the Calligraphy.

CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

Share the good news! In spite of a world-wide pandemic, our Church has never shut-down. Here at Central we've continued to live our mission of being the hands and feet of Jesus by: loving God and one another; nurturing faithful living; serving those in need; and sharing the gospel. This Easter, like every Sunday, you have an opportunity to invite your family and friends to worship with us via live-stream. Share the good news of Our Lord's Resurrection— freely, widely, and with reckless abandon.

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!



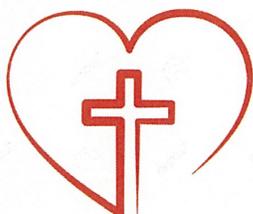
Worship and Activities for All Ages
Share with your family & friends

**AN INVITATION FROM
CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

You, and your family, are invited to join us for Holy Week Activities and our Festival Worship Celebration on Easter Sunday.



Maundy Thursday Stop by the church parking lot between noon & 1pm or 5 & 6pm for Holy Communion.



Good Friday Come to the Sanctuary any time between noon & 3pm for "Stations of the Cross" (geared especially for children, youth & families to have a meaningful & worshipful experience).



Holy Saturday Join us at 10am for an Easter Egg Hunt in the Pioneer Cemetery across from the Church (with separate areas for the wee little ones and older children/youth).

EASTER SUNDAY FESTIVAL WORSHIP Celebrate The Resurrection of Our Lord via live-stream at 9am or limited in-person (registration required) and then join us for an online "Easter Brunch" via Zoom at 11am (bring your own treats).



For more info: www.connecttocentral.org

(Note: pre-recorded worship services for Maundy Thursday & Good Friday will be available on our church's website by noon each of those days.)



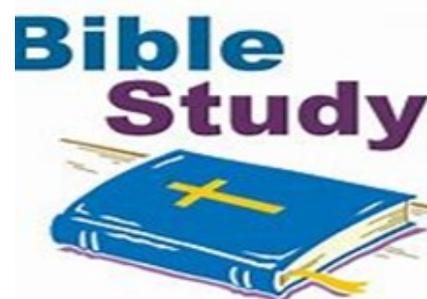
WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Ed Anderson; David Beckstein; Sally Bethel; Lou Berg; Terry Chap; Nicole Christie; Greg Foote; Ilona Johnson, Joy Lathrop, Doug and Jodie Martin; Marie Miller; Bob Reed; Sean Wagoner and Richard White. Also: please remember the family and friends of Marjory Millhollen (nee: Hanson) as they mourn. Marj died on March 11th just two months shy of her 99th birthday.

Wednesday Bible Study via Zoom at 11am.

No preparation needed. All are welcome. If you'd like to join Vicar Ben as we study portions of Paul's letter to the Galatians, email [here](#) for the Zoom link.

Also: The Men's Bible Study is meeting in person (masked & socially distanced) in the Parish Hall on Wednesdays at 1:00pm.



THANK YOU

The Wildish family would like to thank everyone for all their prayers during Jim's illness and for your cards and kind expressions of sympathy upon his recent death.

Our love,
Yvonne, Mike & Sonia, Steve & Kim, and family

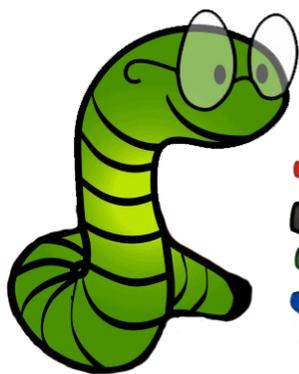
YOU ARE INVITED

This is an invitation to join a Holy Saturday Contemplative Retreat on April 3, 9am to noon. It is a virtual retreat, online on Zoom, and is sponsored by a group from the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection with members from four other Eugene congregations, including Central. If you are interested in attending, sign on for information using this link:

Centeringprayer Eugene@yahoo.com

If you would like more information about contemplative prayer / meditation or more details about the content of this retreat, please contact Elizabeth Uhlig at emuhlig@gmail.com. She has been attending contemplative retreats (in person and online) with this group for about three years.

News from Central's Book Club



The CLC Book Club will meet on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom to discuss [A Pilgrimage to Eternity: From Canterbury to Rome in Search of a Faith](#) by Timothy P. Egan. According to the Chicago Tribune, this book is "A glorious, laugh-out-loud, wipe-away-tears, blister-riddled... quietly triumphant walk through church history... "

Author and columnist/reporter for the NYTimes, Egan writes about a 1,000-mile pilgrimage along the Via Francigena, a major medieval trail from England through France, Switzerland, and Italy to Rome. The book is a travel story describing

the scenery and challenges of walking across Europe. He explores the history of Christianity and the collapse of faith in the towns he passes through. He writes about his family's history with the Catholic Church including the abuse and crisis within the Church. And he examines his struggle with his own faith or lack thereof. The book ends with his thoughts on his 'pilgrim's progress': "There is no way. The way is made by walking." The discussion will be led by Elizabeth Uhlig.

The ZOOM link will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

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 >.

Looking Ahead: The CLC Book Club will meet on Monday, May 10, 2021, at 7:00pm via Zoom to discuss [The Giver of Stars](#) by Jojo Moyes. The discussion will be led by Gretchen Simas.

It's Helen Knebel's 96th Birthday!

on April 8, 2021

Help us celebrate by sending cards to Helen! She loves receiving cards and this would be the best present she could receive, especially in this time of social distancing!

Helen is living with Debbie and Rodger at:

212 Beringer Court

Eugene, OR 97404



Also, if you know of anyone outside the church who may wish to participate, feel free to include them! Getting cards from her church family would be very special. A big thank you to all who participate.

Central Lutheran Church
Jan-Feb 2021 Compared to Jan-Feb 2020 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-Feb 2021	Jan-Feb 2020	Difference
Regular Envelopes	\$ 110,689.92	\$ 85,576.00	\$ 25,113.92
Other Offerings	-	\$ 1,241.90	\$ (1,241.90)
Holiday Offerings	350.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 345.00
Other Income*	(9.32)	\$ 4,839.79	\$ (4,849.11)
Departmental Income	9,803.55	\$ 5,873.55	\$ 3,930.00
Total Income	\$ 120,834.15	\$ 97,536.24	\$ 23,297.91
Total Expenses	\$ 122,533.93	\$ 116,855.52	\$ 5,678.41
YTD Net Income	\$ (1,699.78)	\$ (19,319.28)	\$ 17,619.50

* Other Income: 1842 University Adjustment



CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
 1857 POTTER STREET EUGENE 97403
 541-345-0395 ~ ~ 541-345-2499(FAX)

WEBSITE: WWW.WELCOMETOCENTRAL.ORG
 OR WWW.CONNECTTOCENTRAL.ORG