

THE CENTRALITE

June 2021



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN
CHRIST CONGREGATION

Central's Staff

Pastor Laurie A. Jones
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(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*

Summer Opportunities for Worship

9am Worship in-person in the Sanctuary (pre-registration is still highly encouraged and protocols for COVID remain in effect until further notice).

9am Worship from your home via livestream (This service is also available as a podcast for later viewing).

11am Worship in the Garden beginning June 20th (open air, covered seating in a beautiful setting at 2345 Laura Street in Springfield with parking available across the street at Oregon Neurology).

(The 11am worship via Zoom will conclude on June 13th.)

Reminder: The congregation's **semi-annual meeting** will take place **Sunday, June 6th at noon via Zoom**. The primary purpose of the meeting is the election of leaders to serve on church council, plus nominating and audit committees, but we will also hear updates on Finances, Endowment, Campus Ministry, and more.

Fifty members are needed for a quorum so please plan to attend. The Zoom link will arrive in your inbox shortly before the meeting. However, even if you don't use a computer, you can access Zoom from a landline or cell phone. Need help? Give us a call and we'll walk you through the steps to get connected.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Good news—there's a light at the end of the tunnel! It looks as though we're getting closer to what I think we all have to assume will be a "new-normal," whatever that may entail, and however that may look. Regardless, I am so glad because it seems like things are gradually opening up again and little by little people seem to be feeling a bit more comfortable being out and about. However, I want to caution you that we are certainly not out of the woods yet. There are still too many unknowns. So all of our plans need to be flexible, adaptable, and innovative as more of us gradually begin coming together again face to face whether with siblings in Christ at church or with our extended family members and dear friends, both near and far.

Summer is an ideal time to change up our routines a bit and get outdoors more. What better way to worship and glorify our Creator God than to be out in the midst of creation while doing so!

As you may recall, Central formed a COVID Task Force early on to determine a cautious, low-level risk approach to allow for in-person worship. Following all of the suggested guidelines of the Oregon Health Authority by June 2020 we moved to the live-stream and limited in-person worship at 9am and over the course of the year we tried a few different options for the 11am service, including an off-site, outdoor service at the Garden last summer. This proved to be a fun alternative for those who attended those services, and so, starting June 20th, we'll be returning to the Garden again this summer.

For those who don't know, the Garden is a property owned by long-time member, Ike Olsson. Warehouse style buildings provide additional storage for some of Olsson Electric's equipment. Meanwhile fruits and vegetables are planted throughout the grounds and the abundant crops produced from that soil are then given to Food for Lane County. It serves as a great example of one of our tenets as Christians to serve those in need and feed the hungry. Thanks to the Olsson family as well as Sally Baumgartner for your hospitality and witness.

The building we are able to use for our worship space has four double-car garage doors, two on each side of the building, that are open to allow for cross ventilation. The space provides worshipers views of the beauty and bounty of creation that surrounds us. I share these details to give you a picture of what this space looks like with the hope more of you will feel comfortable checking it out some time this summer. Or, if you're able, come join us at the 9am service!

Good news—there's a light at the end! It's the same light that was there in the beginning and has been with us every step of the way throughout this world-wide pandemic. It's the true Light which enlightens everyone, the Light who was sent into the world, full of grace and truth, to light our path and lighten our load—our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

In Christ's Abiding Love,

+Pastor Laurie

From the Desk of Vicar Ben

Dear Friends,

*"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."
Philippians 1:3-5*

Paul writes his letter to the church in Philippi as a thank you letter. Paul had been imprisoned, and in Roman prisons prisoners depended upon gifts from their friends to sustain them for the necessities of life. The Philippians, hearing of Paul's need, sent a certain Epaphroditus to bring a gift from the church to sustain him for the continuance of his ministry. The church in Philippi saw Paul's ministry to the larger world of value and importance beyond the reach of their own congregation. Paul therefore writes this letter simply to thank them.

I write this to you to thank you. I am preparing to enter into my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) training as an intern chaplain at PeaceHealth Riverbend. I will be serving there full time for 10 weeks (June 2-Aug 14). This is part of my training into Word and Sacrament ministry to provide pastoral care at all levels of life. This time will be invaluable for me as I learn under the guidance of chaplains.

I want to thank all of you at Central for your support of me during this time. First, the Foundation has generously provided a grant to fund my salary during this CPE period. I will be as connected as I can during this summer, but most of my efforts will be directed to the hospital itself, and as such rather than my salary being paid under the general fund, it will be paid by a grant for ministries beyond the walls of the congregation. The Foundation awarded this grant so that I can be of service to the larger community in Lane County serving all kinds of people at PeaceHealth. Therefore, first and foremost, thank you to the Foundation for this grant. Second, I also want to thank you for the gift of time. I will be required to be at the hospital forty hours per week during these ten weeks. As such, I will obviously be spending most of my time at the hospital and I thank you all for granting me that time. This will be an amazing opportunity both for learning as I grow in pastoral care ministry, but also for my own spiritual development.

While I am away, know that I am not absent. I will be as connected to Central as I can, but more than that, my time at Riverbend is as an extension of our ministry at Central of being Christ to the world. Finally, if any of you come to Riverbend for any reason, let me know if you'd like a visit.

In Christ's love,
Vicar Ben

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry News ***A Ministry of Central, United, & Emmaus (CUE)***

In addition to our Zoom Sunday school (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month) we are starting to meet in-person as well. This means all of our children are invited to join us for in-person Sunday school (2nd and 4th Sundays of the month) from 11am-noon at United Lutheran Church. There will be outside space for parents to wait if the weather cooperates otherwise there will be inside space upstairs in the fellowship hall. The Sunday school class will gather downstairs with me (parents are welcome to join the class, we just want to watch our numbers and spacing). I have opened the folding walls to the rooms making our gathering space large and social distancing friendly. We will also utilize the outside space if the weather allows. If you have questions or plan to join us, please email, call or text me so I can be prepared.

Please note that the lessons for Zoom Sunday school on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and in-person on the 2nd and 4th Sundays will be different topics (both related to the monthly theme) so that you can attend both or just one and the kids will not feel lost or bored.

+ SAVE THE DATE +

We are also excited to share with you that plans are underway for Vacation Bible School this summer. Our theme will be **Into the Wilderness** and we will be holding camp at Central on **June 28 - July 2, 2021** from 9am-12:30pm.

As in recent years, Central, United, Emmaus, and Our Redeemer will be co-hosting camp together. We will be following all recommended safety precautions and keeping our kid groups small. Our registration will be online only this year. **You can use the link below to register your family.**

The cost of camp is a suggested donation of \$25 per camper or \$50 for a family. All checks and payments will go to Central Lutheran Church. Please indicate on the check or with the payment that it is for Vacation Bible School. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to **volunteer** please contact Crystal Miller (crystal@unitedlutheran.org or call/text her at 503-320-4055).

Click the link to register: <https://forms.gle/ksS4R7bki5pzsFN6A>



News From Central's Book Club

The CLC Book Club will meet on **Monday, June 14, 2021, at 7pm** via Zoom to discuss ***We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy*** by Ta-Nehisi Coates. This book, published in 2017, explores the Civil War aftermath when a multiracial democracy turned into the return of white supremacy. Coates compares this with the election of our first black President and the backlash of white supremacy that has followed. The discussion will be led by Ginger Bopp.

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 hold its **Annual Book Choosing Meeting** on **Monday, July 12, 2021, at 7pm** via Zoom. This is when we decide on the reading list for next year. Be thinking of two books you would like to recommend. Stay tuned for details.

Hello Fellow Readers!

It is that time again when I ask if any of you are interested in supporting the FOOD For Lane County Empty Bowls Auction. Last year five generous members of Central Lutheran Church book group donated either money (thru Central, for tax deduction) or books to the 2020 Empty Bowls Auction. With that gift we were able to purchase 18 books and create two children's book baskets which sold for more than \$300!!! So exciting!!!

So, now I am back again. Children's books sell very well but there was a suggestion to collect books or money to create a "grown up" readers basket. I am good with either one or both.

If you are interested in helping with this project you can do it in one of three ways: 1) Write a check to Central Lutheran Church and mark it for FFLC Book basket, 2) You can purchase books on your own, call me at 541-683-6503, and I will be happy to pick up the book, or 3) You can order book(s) and have then shipped directly to me at 2243 University Street, Eugene 97403.

Every way you can support feeding our neighbors is great and much appreciated. And as many of you know, Central Lutheran's "Hearth and Table" ministry with UO students is a partner agency of FOOD for Lane County.

So, if you want to participate in the book donation please let me know by mid-June so I can plan accordingly. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email, phone, snail mail.

Thank you so much for considering this donation.

Peace,
Jane Powell

\$tewardship or Stewardship

by Vern White, Stewardship Ministry Team

If I were to ask, how do you spell stewardship I am sure that you would get an A+. If I were to ask you to define the word stewardship, I think that we might find as many different definitions as there are people reading this article and the surprising thing is, you would still receive an A+. So let's define the word according to Merriam-Webster and go from there. Stewardship: the conducting, supervising, or managing of something—especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

In my own thinking I know that the spelling of the word stewardship starts with an 'S' but in my reasoning it was always spelled with a '\$', and yes it does involve the care of the dollar, but it means so much more. You see my definition was that I was to be responsible for what were my possessions: My family, my money, my time, my car, my food, and yes my church. Once I came to understand "The earth is the Lord's and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it," (Psalm 24:1) I realized that none of this was actually mine. Looking at Matt. 25:14-30, in the parable of the talents, I am considered a slave, a servant, and these are but talents left in my care to be watched over, protected, and invested for their increase and to be surrendered to their rightful owner upon His return. Well, as they say, "God said it, I believe it, and that settles it."

As summer is approaching the Stewardship Team asked me to share about how I can be a good steward when in rest and recreation. So, I'll tell you a story: When the kids were small we decided to head east and visit one of Oregon's incredible sites, the Oregon Painted Hills and John Day Fossil Beds National Park. The drive was long and hot but once we arrived, the painted hills were beautiful and surely sculptured by the finger of God. There, at the view point, was a sign: "Stay Off The Hills, Stay On the Path!" We did, and in our small tour, we found where others hadn't stayed off the hills thus scaring the beautiful colors of the hills for a very long time to come. A teachable moment for parents and children alike, the earth is the Lord's, respect it! Tell the children why we care for the trail—so that perhaps someday they can come back with their own children and see it again.

After returning home, the family was resting on the couch watching the television when a Smokey the Bear commercial came on, one that has stuck with me all this time. It was this: A rampaging forest fire, then the scene changes to a single tree blazing away, then the scene changes again to a single campfire burning unattended, then again to a single hand striking a single match, and again the screen to black and a picture of Smokey, and the caption, "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires" and the last scene was a forest left in smoking ashes. Another teachable moment for parents and children alike, the earth is the Lord's, be responsible for it!

The day was over, the trip memorable, the lessons there-in received well, yet one final thing to do: Children tucked in their beds, Mom with one child, Dad with the other, reciting together, "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep, if I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take."

No, stewardship is surely spelled with an 'S'!



WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

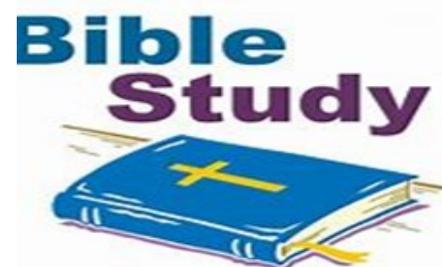
Ed Anderson, Betsy Berg, Lue Berg, Terry Chap, Nicole Christie, Carolyn & Bob Evans, Greg Foote, Ilona Johnson, Joy Lathrop, Doug and Jody Martin, Bob Reed, Sean Wagoner, and Roger White. Also we pray for the family and friends of Sally Bethel upon her death and the family and friends of Peggy Chalk, sister of Diane Murphy.

Sally's memorial service will be held at Central on Wednesday,

Wednesday Bible Study via Zoom at 11am.

No preparation needed. If you'd like to join Pastor Laurie & Vicar Ben as we study the readings for the upcoming Sunday, 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.



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

	Jan-Apr 2021	Jan-Apr 2020	Difference
Regular Envelopes	\$ 198,291.31	\$ 182,958.50	\$ 15,332.81
Other Offerings	297.10	\$ 1,447.90	\$ (1,150.80)
Holiday Offerings	5,550.00	\$ 4,078.00	\$ 1,472.00
Other Income	7,386.88	\$ 10,845.73	\$ (3,458.85)
Departmental Income	25,116.79	\$ 22,555.33	\$ 2,561.46
Total Income	\$ 236,642.08	\$ 221,885.46	\$ 14,756.62
Total Expenses	\$ 251,967.36	\$ 231,996.49	\$ 19,970.87
YTD Net Income	\$ (15,325.28)	\$ (10,111.03)	\$ (5,214.25)
Prorated carryover- previous year	\$ 20,444.67	\$ 4,406.67	\$ 16,038.00
Net after carryover- applied	\$ 5,119.39	\$ (5,704.36)	\$ 10,823.75



Change of Address

Sue Keene

1 Avalon Avenue, Unit #531, San Francisco, CA 94112

Dan Chamness

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John & Sue Keana

871 E Barrington Circle, Jackson, MI 49203

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