

THE CENTRALITE

July 2021



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN
CHRIST CONGREGATION

Central's Staff

Pastor Laurie A. Jones
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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
Jean Clancey
Matt Haugen
Chris Henry
Jill Liedtke
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)

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

11am Worship in the Garden

located at 2345 Laura Street in Springfield with parking available across the street at Oregon Neurology. The picture below gives a glimpse of the beautiful setting in which we can praise our Creator God. (The building in the background has four raised double garage doors to create an open-air, covered seating for a more informal worship experience).



Dear Friends in Christ,

I know I've said it before, but I think it's worth repeating. Early on in the pandemic I read an article that resonated with me. The writer stated, "We may not all be in the same boat, but we are all in the same storm." Recently we heard the story of Jesus calming the storm. He was in the boat with his disciples when a great storm began rocking their boat and the waves came crashing in on them. Jesus was fast asleep in the stern and they woke him saying, "Don't you care that we're perishing?" I wonder how many times these past 18 months people around the world have lamented to God, "Don't you care that we're dying?" Surely we've all wanted to wake God up, to rouse God from sleep, to have God stop this insidious disease that has kept us from being in community and communion with one another.

Yes, we lament the losses and heartaches of these past 18 months, but we can also be grateful for the blessings. Thanks be to God we've found new ways to continue being Church together, even while apart. While our respective boats may have been swamped by the waves crashing in upon us, God has remained with us, calming the storms that rock our boats just as God is with us in all those times we've sailed along smoothly.

And now, even while the raging storm has been calmed, and restrictions are being lifted in our state, there will continue to be protocols for us to follow to keep one another safe. If you're coming to the Sanctuary to worship it's still helpful if you'd register ahead of time at connectocentral.org. Since there's no vaccine yet for children 12 and under, for the time being masks are still required whenever/wherever children are present (even if you're fully vaccinated). However, you are now invited to join our gifted cantors and sing along with the hymns. Also, we have now begun serving communion at the altar rail. For those who have difficulty navigating steps, we invite you to sit in the front pew and let the servers come to you. You are also welcome to worship with us at 11am in a more informal setting at The Garden (2345 Laura St. Springfield). The Garden is a beautiful, outdoor setting, with open-air, covered seating.

For the foreseeable future, the mid-week Bible Study on Wednesdays at 11am will continue on Zoom. Some Ministry Teams, Committee meetings, and small groups are choosing to meet in person or use a hybrid model where some participants are on Zoom while others are meeting in person. And of course, the 9am worship service will continue to be live-streamed for those who are unable to worship with us in person. We're gearing up to resume programming by early September including Choral rehearsals, Together Tuesdays, Hearth & Table, various small groups, and more. (Details to follow in next month's Centralite.)

Blessings to all of you as we continue to weather whatever storms come our way, trusting in the grace and mercy of our God who remains faithful through it all.

In Christ's Abiding Love,
+Pastor Laurie

P.S. Vicar Ben continues his Clinical Pastoral Education unit at PeaceHealth Riverbend. He will complete his chaplaincy work there in mid-August and return to his internship with us at Central thereafter.

Vacation Bible School 2021

Wandering in the Wilderness

What happens when you put thirty children ages 3 years old—5th grade, eight middle/high school youth, eight adults, four pastors and one very creative youth minister together for a week??? You get loads of fun, that's what! Between worship, prayer, story-time, music, crafts, nature talks, games and snacks there's been a lot of laughter coming from the walls at Central this week. Our children are experiencing God's amazing love while making new friends, our youth are sharing their gifts of time and energy, and our adults are simply amazing! Thanks to everyone for being part of this incredible week. Watch out, dear Church, these precious little ones are excited to grow in faith, love, witness, and service. God is good! God is great!



VBS at Central with our friends from Bethesda, Emmaus, Our Redeemer, and United Lutheran



Vacation Bible School 2021





Book Club News

The CLC Book Club will have its Annual Book Choosing Meeting on Monday, July 12, 2021, at 7:00pm via Zoom. Each person may recommend two books which you have previously read. Be prepared to give a summary of each book and why you think we will enjoy reading it. After a vote and elimination process, we will select the top ten books to read and discuss next year. The books should be available in paperback or inexpensive hardcover. There will be no meeting in August. The next discussion will be on September 13th. New members are always welcome—if you've been considering joining the Book Club, please come to our July meeting even if you don't have a book to recommend! If you would like to attend, please email Betsy Berg at rb24berg@aol.com or contact the church office. Zoom log-on details will be emailed to you closer to the meeting date.

In order to help facilitate this Zoom meeting, and although other book recommendations may still be made at the meeting, the group agreed it is most helpful for everyone to have the same compiled list of book recommendations, with synopses, prior to the meeting. To help make this list possible, we are asking everyone to please help us stream-line the selection process.

By Thursday, July 1st: each of your book recommendations (up to 2 per person), email to Betsy Berg rb24berg@aol.com the Complete Book Title, the Author's full name, whether it's Fiction or Non-Fiction, and a Brief Synopsis.

A week later, 4 days prior to the meeting, Betsy will email the compiled list of book recommendations, with synopses, to the Book Club email list. Everyone will have the opportunity to share more about each book at the meeting.

It's hard to believe that this is the second year we have been unable to safely gather together for the traditional salad potluck supper that normally precedes this annual book choosing meeting. We look forward to when we can do so again! Until then, meeting via Zoom offers everyone the opportunity to feel comfortable and safely participate. Hope you'll join us!

Remember— email Betsy your book recommendations with synopses in by July 1st.



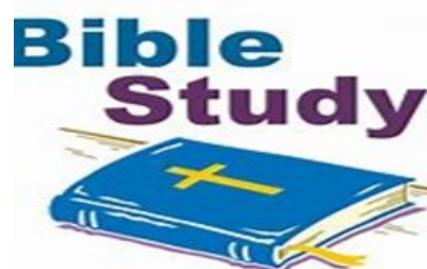
WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Betsy Berg, Lue Berg, Terry Chap, Nicole Christie, Carolyn & Bob Evans, Greg Foote, Ilona Johnson, Keith Jurasevich, Joy Lathrop, Doug and Jody Martin, Shirley Watson, Sean Wagoner.

Also we pray for the family and friends of Arne Albertson, Ed Anderson and Kathy Lee upon their deaths.

Wednesday Bible Study via Zoom at 11am. No preparation needed. If you'd like to join Pastor Laurie 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 Library on Wednesdays at 1:00pm.



Thank You Central Members

Thank you for your kind offerings of household items. It is much appreciated and will help to fill the void after the Holiday Farm Fire took our beloved "McKenzie Ranch." It's so great to be part of such a loving and supportive community. I wish you all peace and love.

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

	Jan-May 2021	Jan-May 2020	Difference
Regular Envelopes	\$ 227,207.31	\$ 222,834.98	\$ 4,372.33
Other Offerings	327.10	\$ 1,447.90	\$ (1,120.80)
Holiday Offerings	5,590.00	\$ 4,128.00	\$ 1,462.00
Other Income	10,942.36	\$ 13,170.89	\$ (2,228.53)
Departmental Income	29,619.64	\$ 26,006.19	\$ 3,613.45
Total Income	\$ 273,686.41	\$ 267,587.96	\$ 6,098.45
Total Expenses	\$ 318,354.42	\$ 285,895.59	\$ 32,458.83
YTD Net Income	\$ (44,668.01)	\$ (18,307.63)	\$ (26,360.38)
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 25,555.80	\$ 5,508.33	\$ 20,047.47
Net after carryover applied	\$ (19,112.21)	\$ (12,799.30)	\$ (6,312.91)

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