

# THE CENTRALITE

September 2022



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN  
CHRIST CONGREGATION

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

Associate Organist  
Dr. Lindsey H. Rodgers

Parish Administrator  
Kristi Hoiland

Financial Manager  
Cindy Culpepper

Minister to Children, Youth &  
Families for CUE  
Crystal Miller

## 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

## IT'S TIME TO (RE)ENGAGE!

**September 11: Blessing of the Solar Panels**  
following 8:30am worship (in Christus House lot),  
**Back to School Blessing** during worship at both  
8:30am (in the Sanctuary) and 11am (at the Garden—  
last summer Garden service!)

**September 13: Together Tuesdays Resume**  
(see page 4)

**September 14: Chorale Rehearsals Resume**  
(see page 7)

**September 18: (Re)Engage! A Stewardship Event**

**September 22: Handbell Choir Resumes**  
(see page 7)

**September 25: Sunday Morning Education Hour**  
(see page 3)

**October 2: Blessing of the Animals** during worship

**October 7-9: Family Camp** at Camp Lutherwood  
(see page 5)

**October 30: Reformation Sunday & Distribution of  
Bibles for Children & Youth**

Dear Friends in Christ,

The 21st chapter of the Gospel according to John ends with a vivid scene describing the third appearance of Jesus to his disciples after he was raised from the dead (v.14). It comes after these same disciples had spent the previous week locked behind closed doors because they were afraid. Who could blame them? Something unbelievable and utterly life-altering had happened and it rocked their world. In fact, the world as they knew it had changed—forever! I imagine they were experiencing more than fear—at the very least we can assume they were on an emotional roller-coaster of shock, confusion, and anxiety. Jesus had been raised from the dead! And he had appeared to them! Now what?

Here's where it gets interesting. Peter decides to go fishing. He goes back to what's familiar, back to what he knows. And six of the other disciples go along with him. But after a long night of fishing, they had nothing to show for it; they caught nothing. Standing on the shore, as the new day was dawning, Jesus told them to cast their net to the other side. Only they didn't know it was Jesus. Still, they tried casting the net on the other side—as if trying something new might make a difference—and it did! They hauled in a boat-load of fish. One of the disciples looked again, and lo and behold, he recognized it was Jesus on shore. He told Peter—"It is the Lord!" And just like that, Peter was all in. Literally! He jumped into the water and swam to shore while the others came in the boat. They saw a charcoal fire there, with some fish and bread on it, and the next thing they knew, Jesus was inviting all of them to breakfast on the beach!

The story goes on, but there's enough here to make my point. The death and resurrection of Jesus continues to be a life-altering experience for our world—for us! We're coming out of a world-wide pandemic that has caused an enormous shift in the way we do things. And as someone who has just battled through a week of COVID myself, I know the world as we once knew it has dramatically changed. Believe me, I'd like to think we could just go back to the way things were—to do what's familiar. I also know, and I think you know as well, that we've had to try some new things, and some of those new things have actually proven to be quite beneficial. Yet, I tend to be a lot like Peter—at least I like to think so. When it comes to ministry, I'd like to believe that when push comes to shove, I'm all in! That is until an unexpected positive COVID test crashes in on you like a rogue wave and knocks you off your feet!

Still, I happen to believe there are signs all around us—all the time—that point to a resurrection appearance by none other than Jesus. He comes to us in the breaking of bread as sure as he comes in the prayers that lift us from the depths of a sickbed. He comes whenever two or three gather in his name. And he comes whenever the body of Christ embodies him in our serving and our witness. May those post-resurrection appearances give us the courage to be all in—united as one in the body of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Abiding Love,

Pastor Laurie

P.S. Thank you for all your prayers and well-wishes during my recent illness.

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." 2 Cor 9:12

Dear members and friends of Central,

We are very excited about our upcoming programming in September. Since I have been here at Central, both as an intern and now as your Associate Pastor, I have never seen Central fully functioning. I was installed in January 2021 in the height of the pandemic and many of Central's ministries were on hiatus. Since then, we have slowly been opening up more and more as we approach a "new normal" being able to gather together. This fall, we have a theme of (Re)Engaging. The (Re) is in parentheses as some things will be revitalized that have been on hiatus, some things are not "re"engaging, because they have never stopped – so they are continuing to engage recognizing new opportunities all the time. Other things are coming back, but in new ways and new forms. Other things are completely new so they are not "re" engaging, they are new engagements. All things are bringing us closer and closer together as one body of Christ.

The Stewardship team is leading a (Re)engage kickoff between services September 18. We will be looking at the ways we have continued to engage one another in the pandemic, the ways we will look to new engagement, and recognize the amazing work that congregational members have been continuing to do during this pandemic. We have never closed and God's work has never stopped. The work might not have been within the church doors, but it was always happening. We have been Christ to each other at all times and in all places. Our relationship with Jesus is reflected outward to everyone we meet. We have been the hands and feet of Jesus in our families, in our workplaces, in our schools, in our interactions at stores and the list goes on – wherever we are, there we are serving God and thereby serving each other.

One thing that is coming back together is our Together Tuesday programs as well as our Sunday Education Hour between services. Together Tuesdays will begin Sept 13 and our first education hour both for children and adults will be Sunday Sept 25 (recognizing that Sept 18 is the (Re)Engage kickoff). I am excited to see Together Tuesdays, to share a meal beginning at 5:15, have programming for children, and a class for adults at 6-6:45.

Our first class series on Tuesday evenings will be about (Re)Engagement. It will be structured around how we serve each other through what Lutherans call "vocation" – our callings in our daily lives. It is how and why we engage with each other. We will spend time looking carefully at what (Re)Engagement looks like for the post-pandemic world with guest speakers, careful consideration of Luther's doctrine of vocation and engagement, and devotional reflection. It will be meaningful and enlivening. I look forward to seeing you there!

In Christ,  
Pastor Ben

## **TOGETHER TUESDAYS ARE BACK!!!**

This year, we will be (re)engaging together! In Fall, many of our ministries that have been on hiatus will be starting back up – some in rather new ways. The last few years have been a challenge. Learning to live with the pandemic forced us inside, away from friends and family, and even away from church. It has been especially hard on young families and teens. For many, those church activities and worship that did happen were mostly virtual. More and more people are yearning for the opportunity to come together again in community and in new ways. It's time to take a look at our new life, both away from and within our church community. How can we (re)engage our ministries and relationships? How can we help those who have suffered? Will our ministry teams and activities look the same as before? What needs to change? How can you be involved?

**Save the date.** The Stewardship Committee invites you to join us to dream together on how we move forward. We will meet in the Parish Hall on September 18th between services. Plan to be there! Note: There will be something for all ages, not just adults.

## **TOGETHER TUESDAY ADULT FORUM**

Join Pastor Ben from 6:00-6:45 after our dinner on Together Tuesdays for our first class series, (Re)Engage! We will be talking about Luther's doctrine of Vocation and how we engage with each other. This will be equal parts introducing us into the theological core of how we care for others, seeing new opportunities COVID has provided us for serving one another, and hearing from each other where you are actively engaged. We are one body of Christ working together for the good of all, let's come together and discover what that looks like for us today.

## **SUNDAY EDUCATION HOUR IS RETURNING!**

After a very long hiatus during COVID, this fall, from 9:45-10:45 (between services) we will have an education hour for adults and education/activities for children. Our first week of programming will be Sept 25. Adults will be starting on the topic of worship during the pandemic and being a community across distance. Children & Youth will have a four-week cycle which will include Godly Play, Music, Crafts & Activities, and Service Projects. We are excited to be back together again!

## THANK YOU NOTES!

Mary O'Brien, a friend of Lorraine & Mason Davis, from Elgin, Illinois, recently spent a week of vacation in Eugene. During her stay, she refinished the "big, wooden table" in the Terrace Room. Be sure to check it out—it's never looked better!

Also thanks to David Gustafson & ElRay Stewart-Cook who sanded and refinished the stairs on the 2nd floor of the office.



## Save the Date for CUE Family Camp October 7th-9th at Camp Lutherwood

Plans are underway for our second annual Family Camp for members and friends of Central, United, and Emmaus (CUE) to gather for a weekend of connecting with new friends and long-time friends for worship, games, crafts, intergenerational activities, hikes, and relaxing in this amazingly beautiful camp setting. Mark your calendars and join us for all or part of the weekend. Reservations can be made by emailing Crystal Miller ([crystal@unitedlutheran.org](mailto:crystal@unitedlutheran.org).)

## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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

The Council met Sunday, Aug 21 during its Church Council Retreat.

Council approved Holly Goodrich as an Independent Contractor in order to update and merge the "welcometocentral" and "connecttocentral" websites and to be emergency backup for Sunday worship tech services (livestream and sound system).

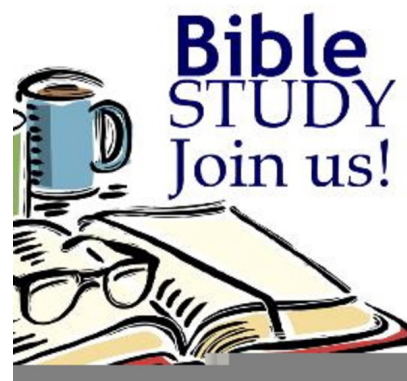
Council authorized a Task Force to establish a formal structure for Good Soil Campus Ministry operations inclusive of Christus House. This Task Force will recommend a formal structure to Council at a later date.

## ENDOWMENT GRANT PROPOSALS WELCOME

**Annual Solicitation for Funding Special Projects:** CLC Endowment Fund Committee is actively soliciting proposals for funding special projects within the church which are outside of the normal budget. Acceptance of these proposals will be guided by the **CLC Mission:** to be the hands and feet of Jesus by **loving** God and one another, **nurturing** faithful living, **servicing** those in need, and **sharing** the Gospel. Request forms may be obtained in the Narthex, church office, at [www.welcometocentral.org/endowment](http://www.welcometocentral.org/endowment), or from the Endowment Committee. Your proposal must be coordinated through the committee, council, relevant staff person, and/or pastor. Please have your requests delivered to the church office or to the committee by Friday, October 21, 2022. Endowment Fund Committee Members: Lorraine Davis, Cyndy Lane, Doug Martin, Becky Shurson, Kelly Colvin-Smith, Bruce Smolnisky and Jean Clancy (Council Rep).

### NURTURE FAITHFUL LIVING

...by diving into the word of God  
with a few of your friends from Central



### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Over the summer the Men's Bible Study is meeting weekly on **Wednesdays at 1pm at the Dietz' home (33632 McKenzie View Dr.)** Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact Chuck Dietz at [cdietz41@gmail.com](mailto:cdietz41@gmail.com).

### PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join Pastor Laurie and Pastor Ben on **Wednesdays at 11am** via Zoom as we study the readings for the upcoming Sunday. No preparation needed. Click [here](#) for the Zoom link.

### WOMEN'S PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Prayer and Bible Study meets weekly on **Thursdays at 11am** on Zoom using the Bible study guides found in the ELCA's *Gather Magazine*. For more information contact Arlene Dietz at [dietzal@aol.com](mailto:dietzal@aol.com).



## IT'S CHOIR SEASON!

We are excited for our singers and ringers to gather again and start making a joyful noise in worship! **Central Chorale** will resume Wednesday Sept. 14 at 7pm and **Handbells** will resume Thursday Sept. 22 at 5:15pm. Contact ElRay with any questions ([aesc@welcometocentral.org](mailto:aesc@welcometocentral.org)).



### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Elementary school-aged children (K-5) are invited to join CLC's Children Choir, an ensemble that explores the building blocks of music, hones focus and patience, supports each other with true camaraderie, and revels in the joy of musical expression! We rehearse on Tuesdays from 6-6:45pm, and participate in services once or twice a month. Fall rehearsals start on September 13. Email Lindsey Rodgers ([lindsey.henriksen@gmail.com](mailto:lindsey.henriksen@gmail.com)) for more information, or visit one of our rehearsals to see what we're up to. All children are welcome!

### MUSIC TOGETHER

Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers all love Music Together! Our classes are designed for children 0-5 (accompanied by an adult caregiver), and they support every child, no matter their learning style or stage of development. Each weekly class includes lots of music activities especially created for young children, led by a trained teacher who inspires everyone to join in the fun. We have reserved space for CLC/CUE families (registration fee waived) in the Tuesday evening class at 6pm as part of our Together Tuesday programming. Our 10-week Fall session begins on September 13. Contact the church office for more information, and to register.

## CHRISTUS HOUSE AND GOOD SOIL CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

As our families are celebrating the return of their school-age children, we remember all our college-aged members and families as well!



Our campus ministry to University of Oregon and Lane Community College revs back up this month, which we will kick off with a **Blessing of the Solar Panels** at Christus House on Sunday, September 11th as a concluding benediction to the 8:30 worship service. This solar panel project was made possible by the family of Joyce Ford Anderson in her memory.

Student residents have already begun to return, but will continue to move in up until the annual **Christus House Fall Retreat** at Camp Lutherwood on September 23-25. This year, they're joining us from Nigeria, Egypt, Canada, and Peru, as well as from around the United States. We look forward to celebrating three new student leaders this year: Ricardo Gutierrez Barrera, Yulia Graham, and Donia Abuelfetouh.

**Hearth & Table**, our community kitchen and weekly meal for college students, begins again on Thursday, September 29 after two years in a distribution-only model. We are so excited to reunite in-person with our student volunteers and diners! We are also grateful for strong partnership in this program from FOOD for Lane County, the UO Basic Needs program, the Student Food Pantry, and UO Duck Corps student service teams.





## BOOK CLUB NEWS



The CLC Book Club will meet via ZOOM on **Monday, September 12, 2022, at 7:00pm** to discuss *To Rescue the Republic: Ulysses S. Grant, the Fragile Union, and the Crisis of 1876* by Bret Baier and Catherine Whitney. This book truly casts Grant as the one who championed Lincoln's cause. It covers his battlefield successes, reconstruction and the electoral crisis that nearly refractured the union. He was bold in his advancing the Reconstruction agenda and countering the KKK. He can be most remembered as preserving the Union in the 1876 election where the winner was unclear. A humble man, one leaning toward

abolition who freed his slave gifted him by his father-in-law, a man who has been greatly downplayed in history by 'southern' historians, and one to whom we owe the existence of our current United States. Rarely is 'history' a captivating read, but this one is a must for our times. The discussion will be led by Arlene Dietz.

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.

Looking Ahead: The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, Oct. 10, 2022, at 7:00pm to discuss *The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel* by Kati Marton. The discussion will be led by Elizabeth Uhlig.

## CONGRATULATIONS, LUCAS SHURSON!

Lucas, who graduated from Luther Seminary in June, will be ordained into Word & Sacrament Ministry on September 18, 2022 in Minnesota. Son of Becky & John Shurson, Lucas has accepted a call to serve as Pastor of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in Caldwell, ID. God's abundant blessings on you, and the people of Faith, as you begin this new partnership in the Gospel.



## WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Terry Chap, Claudia Hardwick, Joy Lathrop, Lori Lund, Doug & Jody Martin, Tara Pratt, Kristen Ware; the family and friends of Elsie Hellwege upon her death; family and friends of Pat Cook, former assistant organist at Central, upon her death.



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

## Central Lutheran Church

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

	Jan-July 2022	YTD 2022 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-July 2021
Regular Envelopes	\$ 315,696.41	\$ 364,581.00	\$ (48,884.59)	\$ 323,166.31
Other Offerings	3,162.61	3,500.00	\$ (337.39)	\$ 497.10
Holiday Offerings	9,154.00	7,450.00	\$ 1,704.00	\$ 5,590.00
Other Income	54,642.15	13,236.32	\$ 41,405.83	\$ 15,340.06
Departmental Income	63,427.80	75,419.92	\$ (11,992.12)	\$ 56,049.38
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 446,082.97</b>	<b>\$ 464,187.24</b>	<b>\$ (18,104.27)</b>	<b>\$ 400,642.85</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 470,567.03</b>	<b>\$ 489,876.64</b>	<b>\$ (19,309.61)</b>	<b>\$ 444,532.72</b>
<b>YTD Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (24,484.06)</b>	<b>\$ (25,689.40)</b>	<b>\$ 1,205.34</b>	<b>\$ (43,889.87)</b>
Prorated carryover- Previous Year	\$ 22,270.50	\$ 22,270.50	\$ -	\$ 35,778.19
<b>Net after carryover applied</b>	<b>\$ (2,213.56)</b>	<b>\$ (3,418.90)</b>	<b>\$ 1,205.34</b>	<b>\$ (8,111.68)</b>



### Address Change

Dennis & Karen Lindsay  
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 Germany

Mia Lindsay  
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 Portland, OR 97203

### CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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