

THE CENTRALITE

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Central's Mission

Central Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Oregon Synod, is a Reconciling in Christ community: We affirm that Christ has made us one body with many members, all sharing in God's wondrous grace and unconditional love.

We celebrate both the human variation and inclusive unity of God's family. Following Jesus' example, we embrace all of God's people regardless of ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, economic circumstance, and we firmly commit to racial equity.

With welcoming hearts, we invite you to join us in worship, education, fellowship, and service. Our mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus by loving God and one another, nurturing faithful living, serving those in need, and sharing the Gospel.

Central Lutheran Staff

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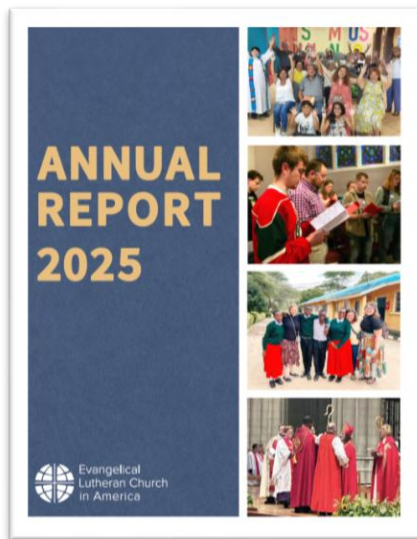
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Prayers requests may be submitted to: prayers@welcometocentral.org

Central Lutheran Church Annual Report

Central's Annual Report was distributed during January's Semi-Annual meeting. Reports from the ELCA Presiding Bishop, Oregon Bishop, Pastor Laurie and leaders of our various committees and ministries, are all included as recaps from 2025. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office.

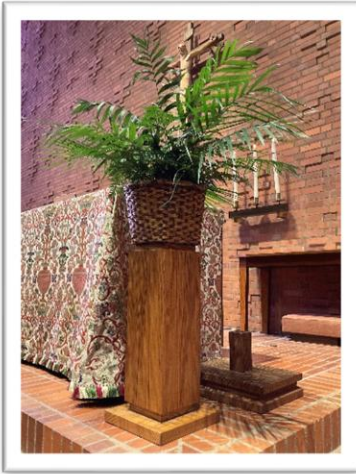


2026 Membership Directories Available

The latest Members and Friends Directory for 2026 is available from the church office. If you didn't get your copy during the semi-annual meeting, be sure to let us know, so you can keep in touch with your fellow members!

Holy Week Schedule

Join us as we conclude our Lenten journey by remembering the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Palm Sunday, Sunday 29

Palm Sunday, celebrated at **both the 8:30am and 11am services at Central**, will not only focus on the procession of the Palms and the joyful shouts of “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” with many worship leadership roles by our Junior Cantors and Children’s Choir, but we will also be receiving new members into our family of faith at Central.

Maundy Thursday, April 2

For Maundy Thursday this year, we will be collaborating with our brothers and sisters in Christ from United Lutheran. There will be two services, one at **noon hosted by United** (2230 Washington St.) with a noontime meal along with Holy

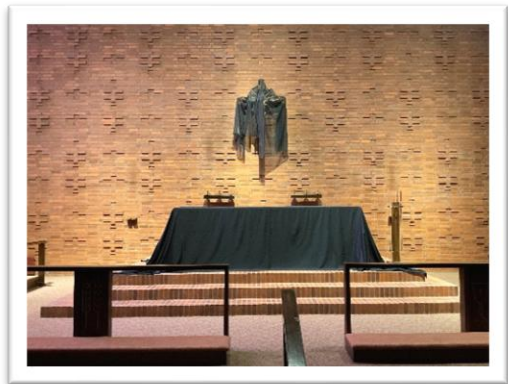


Communion as part of our worship experience. In addition, a traditional **Maundy service will also be held at Central at 7:30pm** with an opportunity for worshipers to receive absolution and forgiveness with the laying on of hands as well as sharing the Eucharist as we remember the night of Jesus’ betrayal. The service will conclude with the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday, April 3

The chapel will be open from noon to 3pm for guided meditation and prayer on the Stations of the Cross.

Tenebrae worship with the Chorale will be held at Central starting at 7:30pm. On this holy night we remember the passion of Christ's suffering and death on the cross.



Easter Vigil, April 4

Worship will be held at United Lutheran at 7pm. The Vigil of Easter is the time when we recall Christ's Passover from Death to Life. We gather around fire, word, water, bread and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Easter Sunday Festival Worship, April 5

Our Festival Worship on Easter is a joyous celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and our new life in Christ. Pulling out all the stops, our worship will feature the Chorale, Handbell Ensemble, Junior Cantors and Children's Choir, a full Brass Ensemble and Timpani at both the 8:30 & 11am services.

Celebrating our Ministries

Christ is alive and active among us! In this section of the Centralite we highlight different ministries at Central and a few of the ways we are seeking to live into our mission of being Christ's hands and feet in the world.

Opportunities to participate in our various ministry endeavors abound as we celebrate both longstanding and newer ministries that continue to spread the Good News of Christ's love to one another, the community, and the world.

Volunteering for Central



*A call to action by Council
President Debbie Knebel*

As highlighted in my March President's message that you should have received straight to your email inbox, we are looking for lay leaders and volunteers to step up and take responsibility for the various ministry teams and committees

of CLC. I especially ask you to consider volunteering on Tuesday evenings. We have several events occurring on these evenings, with the first being our community dinner at 5:15pm. Sue Mathisen and Karie Shorack do a great job cooking a meal for everyone who comes. They could always use some help in preparation (setting up), cooking, serving, and clean-up. The meal is followed by music for our children/youth at 5:45pm, and an adult education hour at 6pm. We are looking for people interested in teaching a series of classes or an occasional stand-alone class, not just on Tuesdays but also Sunday mornings between services. If any of these opportunities speak to you, let the office or Debbie Knebel (knebels@gmail.com) know.

Join the Quest of Quilting

Written by quilter Kelly Brown

A quintessential, quaint, yet remarkable craft of quilting has been part of history and survival for centuries. Central's quilters cut squares, which are pieced together in quizzical, questioning dances of color and pattern. We layer these delightful tops and bottoms by tying knots. Quantities matter. Our goal every year is to send about 150 finished quilts to the Lutheran World Relief headquarters where they are combined with quilts from groups all over the country and then shipped wherever they are needed throughout the world. In 2025, over 532,000 quilts were delivered worldwide to disaster areas. Ultimately, quilting is more than a craft. It is an act of life saving proportions to those receiving their warmth and our prayer that goes with each and every piece.



We are always looking for helpers! No previous experience necessary. All you need to do is be able to tie a knot and we'll even teach you that! Come see what we do and how much fun we have doing it. Come join the quilters quest to quietly build a better world, one piece at a time. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 9am-noon in the Gathering Room. Food, fun and friendship included free of charge! Contact Jill Liedtke for more information (541) 514-0434.

CUE Youth Group Splatter Fun

*Written by CUE Youth
Minister Crystal Miller*

Our CUE youth group is out and about, and we invite you to join us! In February our Middle and High school youth groups made a joint trip up to Splatter Box in



Albany. This was an amazing fellowship opportunity, and we made lasting group memories as we threw, splashed and splattered paint at each other, canvases and the walls. There was much laughter and conversation on the way home, giving time and space to talk about challenges and joys in the lives of our teens.

If you know a teen who is interested in joining our youth group activities, please speak with Crystal. Plus, we can also always use adult volunteers, so please let Crystal know if you would be open to being on a volunteer list for youth group activities.

Central, United, and Emmaus (CUE) Vacation Bible School, June, 2026



All are invited to join us for “God’s Great Circus: A place for all,” a week of faith, fun, and adventure, June 22-26, from 9am-12:30pm! VBS will take place at Central, with classes for students aged 3 years through 5th grade and volunteer opportunities for 6th graders and above. Adult volunteers are needed as well!

To register use this link: <https://forms.gle/ZAtb37kDwrfbLj7f7> The cost is \$35 per student and scholarships are available. All are welcome, so please feel free to invite friends, neighbors, and grandkids. Please talk with Crystal Miller if you have questions or if you are able to volunteer for a day or the whole week!

Type-written notes by Sheri Hammerstad, now stored in the Archives as part of The Nhem Family Collection, describe the chaos of those early weeks: “There is no way to explain the confusion of making appointments, transportation, language, red tape—where to begin...” Sheri and Yvonne Olsson orchestrated all facets of the Nhem’s relocation, and coordinated the many volunteers who gave their time and talents to assist. A hand-written list of ongoing needs runs four pages. Another list, headed “Resource People,” gives the names and phone numbers of church members helping to fulfill them. Throughout these files, the family’s bravery and resilient spirit shines through. Sheri’s forty-five-day report to the Lutheran Council reads, “The Nhem’s are a very warm family that loves to laugh. They want to learn, help and pay their own way... We as Americans have much to learn from these people.” She determined, “We at Central at this time have no fears for the Nhem’s. And those of us that have been in contact with them have been thankful for the loving experience.”



Mr. Yiu Nhem យ៉ូ ណឹម
 Mrs. Tam Nhem តាំ ណឹម
 Phan ផាន
 Deap ដេប
 Phann ផាន
 Chi គី
 Sophal សុផាល
 Paul ប៉ូល
 Sambath សាំបាត
 Sambo សាំបូ

- Envolvement for Everyone
- Family
1. weekly market trips *Yvonne Schindberg 345*
 2. remembering birthdays
 3. explaining holidays--Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas
 4. in general teaching about:
 - a. Eugene
 - b. Oregon
 - c. United States
 5. possible tutoring in school subjects *—at Hughes*
 6. social contacts in and out of school

Over the next two years, the family settled into their new life in America. Both Yiv and Tam found stable jobs, and the children excelled in their respective schools. During this period, updates on the nationwide resettlement project arrived monthly from the Lutheran Council’s headquarters in New York and via Lutheran Family Services’ *A New Beginning...* newsletter. Developments were covered locally by *The Register-Guard* and in national publications.

Eventually, the Nhems moved from the University Street house into Churchill Village, where they became part of the Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Laotian community that founded the Oregon Asian Celebration. Later, they relocated to Beaverton.

When Central celebrated its centennial in 2004, Sambo—the Nhems’ youngest daughter, who was by then 31—wrote the church on the family’s behalf to express their gratitude and inform the congregation of their continued progress. In the intervening years, two generations had become three: “We have had many high school and college graduations, the startup of new businesses, and of course many new births.” The letter also relayed the news of her father’s passing that month from cancer. Enclosed at Yiv’s request was a picture of the family taken in 1990 and a donation to the church. Sambo concluded, “...please know that almost three decades ago you all helped change the lives of eleven people... Central Lutheran Church is a positive reminder of where our roots began here in America.”

Sambo’s complete letter was featured in the [September 2025 edition](#) of *The Centralite*. The Nhem Family Collection includes these and many other primary documents, which allow us to follow the Nhems’ journey as it unfolded in real time, and appreciate the many amazing acts of service undertaken by our church community during that critical period. If you’re interested in viewing this inspiring collection, please e-mail us at archives@welcometocentral.org

Music Updates

With so much happening at Central musically, we'd like to keep you informed of ways you can enjoy and appreciate it.

Recap of Recent CLC Sponsored Concerts

Presented by Central's St Cecelia Music Endowment Fund, two Pocket Concerts have now been held during the lunchtime hour for all to enjoy. We were delighted to host Mike Curtis on winds, and his wife Sandy Holder on accordion/piano, on January 13th, who have been performing together for many years (see photo). Mike and Sandy's program 'A World of Sound' included an array of Argentinian, Spanish, British, Italian, Middle Eastern and other songs.

On March 10th was the second Pocket Concert with Kara Eubanks on violin and Natalie Fortin on piano, performing their 'Bits and Pieces' program.

And lastly but surely not least, was our very own Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers on organ with CLC member Madeleine Rowell reading a selection of poetry for the Winter Vespers Service, on March 1st.

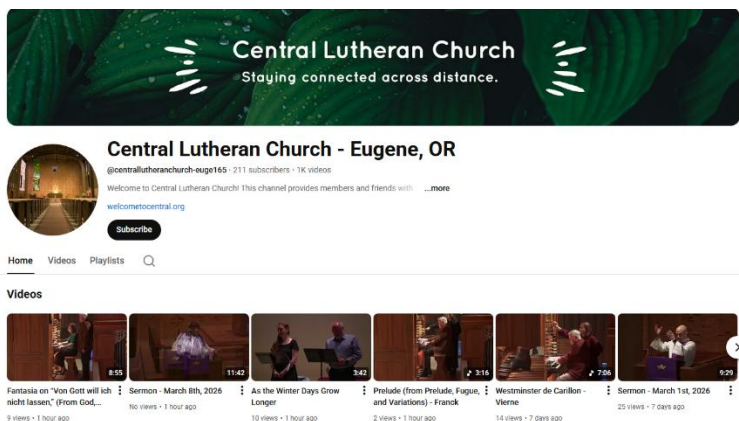


Keep an eye out for announcements on our upcoming concerts and events.

Central Lutheran Church YouTube Channel for Music

Tune in each week to watch recorded pieces from our Sunday services with our talented church musicians. Check these videos out at:

www.youtube.com/@centrallutheranchurch-euge165



Schedule of Central Chorale/Children’s Choir/Jr Cantors during Holy Week and Sundays in Spring

Central Chorale and Children’s Choir & Junior Cantors	Date	Service
Children’s Choir & Junior Cantors	March 29 – Palm Sunday	Both services
Chorale	April 3 – Good Friday	7:30pm
Chorale & Children’s Choir/Jr. Cantors	April 5 – Easter Sunday	Both services
Chorale	April 12	8:30am
Chorale	April 19	8:30am
Chorale	April 26	8:30am
Chorale	May 3 – Haydn Mass	Both services
Chorale	May 10	11:00am
Children’s Choir/Jr Cantors	May 17	8:30am

Pastor Clare Josef-Maier Ordination

Reflection by Vicar Joel Timmons

"It was a joy to be among the many bearing witness to the ordination of Clare Josef-Maier as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. It was a beautiful service. The liturgy was reflective of the deep creativity and joy that Pastor Clare embodies. It was a unique circumstance in that Pastor Clare had previously been ordained into the Ministry of Word and Service, but had discerned a new call, transitioning from the role of Deacon to that of Pastor. The service simply clarified the gifts and vocation that God had already planted within Clare long ago. As I reflect on the service, I can't help but think of baptism. In the same way God used that ordination service to clarify Pastor Clare's vocation, God calls us into our own vocation through the waters of baptism. In baptism, our vocation takes many forms, but it's rooted in the proclamation of God's love for the world, through our words and actions—a calling that we all have. As we celebrate the unique gifts of God working in and through Pastor Clare, may we also see the many ways God calls each of us as followers of Jesus and servants of our neighbors. Thanks be to God for Pastor Clare and for each of you!"



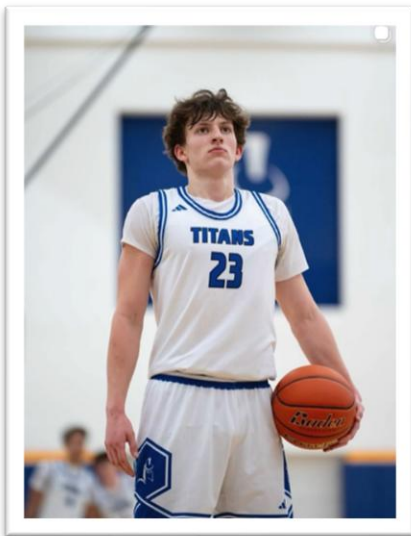
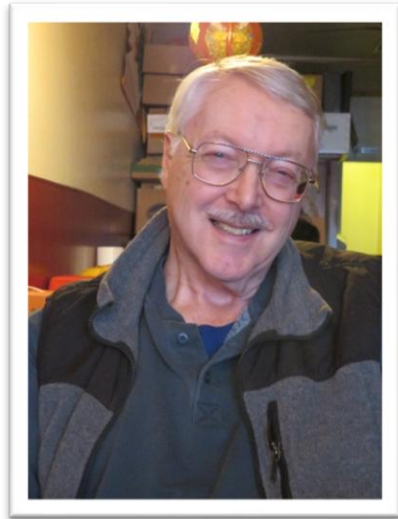
(Editor's Note: Pastor Clare, who served as Campus Minister/Christus House Deacon at Central from 2018-2025, received and accepted a call to serve on the Pastoral staff at Emmaus Lutheran Church.)

Celebrating our Members & Friends

This section of the Centralite celebrates accomplishments in the life of members and friends of Central. Do you have something you would like to celebrate in the next issue of the Centralite? If so, you can submit it to the church office.

Greg Heinz Turns 80!

Long-time Central member Greg Heinz celebrates a milestone birthday this spring!



Gavin English Contributes to Winning Season for LCC!

Gavin is a freshman shooting guard for Lane Community College's basketball team. They are wrapping up a solid season with 7 wins out of 12 conference games. Gavin had the first baptism ever conducted at The Garden this past summer.



Jack McGaughey Graduation and Performance Invitation

I will be graduating from the U of O this spring with my master's degree in music composition, and the performance of my thesis project is taking place in May. My composition is a children's concert titled *Wild About Oregon*, which takes the audience on a road trip across the state of Oregon to admire the animals. The ensemble is a 26-piece chamber orchestra with a narrator. My mother-in-law and CLC member, Sheri Pyron will be playing French horn. All are welcome to attend!

Wild About Oregon

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Frohnmyer Music Building, Aasen-Hull Hall (Rm. 190)

10:30am & 12:30pm, Free Admission

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER AROUND THE WORLD

Wednesday, April 29th at Emmaus

Central, United, and Emmaus are offering an opportunity to worship together and celebrate Holden Village. The evening will begin with a potluck dinner at 5:30pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer Worship at 6:30pm.

A freewill offering will be received to help Holden Village recover from the devastating mudslides and damage to the infrastructure that occurred in December, 2025. Until further notice the village is closed to guests.



Upcoming Memorial Services for Beloved Central Members:

- ✝ Marilyn Tollefson on April 11th at 1pm with reception following.
- ✝ John & Marcia Jarrett on April 18th at 1pm with reception following.
- ✝ Robert Evans on April 25th at 1pm with reception following.

Please keep their families, and all who grieve, in your prayers even as we entrust them to God's eternal care and cling to the hope that is ours in Christ's glorious Resurrection.

Give hope this spring.

Give blood.



American
Red Cross



Blood Drive **Central Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall
1857 Potter Street
Eugene, OR 97403

Wednesday, April 15, 2026
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: centrallutheraneugene to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



Help hope bloom! Give blood 4/13-30 for \$15 e-gift card
to merchant of choice. See rblood.org/hope



Scan to schedule
an appointment.



Franz Joseph Haydn's

Mass in Time of War

Sunday, May 3
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. services

The Central Chorale with soloists and Chamber Orchestra
Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook, conducting

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

welcometocentral.org
18th and Potter Street
Eugene, Oregon