

October 2023



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN
CHRIST CONGREGATION

THE CENTRALITE

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*

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President, Jean Clancey
Vice Pres, Debbie Knebel
Secretary, Jack Bennett
Treas, Brent Moeller
Ron Fenchak
Teri Gillis
Matt Haugen
Howard Kallinen
Jill Liedtke
Todd Shorack
Chuck Swenson

Special Events in October!

The Feast of St. Francis & Blessing of the Animals, October 1st

Bring your 4-footed companions (and other pets) to worship for a special blessing or join us in the east parking lot from noon-12:30pm.

Quilt Sunday, October 8th

Plan to celebrate our Quilting Ministry as we bless the quilts and those who will receive them.

Campus Ministry Sunday, October 15th

Come and celebrate our outreach ministry to UO & LCC students, meet & greet new and returning Christus House residents, then plan to join us for Coffee hour between services at Christus House.

Reformation Sunday with Reception of New Members on October 29th

(Wear Red!)

Celebrate with us! And be sure to let Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben know if you, or someone you know, wants to join our Central church family.

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Prior to Pastor Ben, Deacon Clare, and myself each receiving our respective calls to serve with and alongside you, the congregation created a new mission statement: 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. In my time with you I've viewed this statement not merely as words on a page, but as a guide for us to live more fully into our identity as the baptized people of God. People, who, empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, are being called, equipped, and strengthened to embody Christ and God's vision to love, nurture, serve, and share.

To that end, I've reminded you time and time again how we are continually being blessed by God—blessed to be a blessing! I give thanks to God for Central's rich history and for the many and varied ways each of you share your gifts of time, talents, and treasures. The following pages speak to some of the ways we are living into our shared identity in this time and place. But, I will also highlight a few...

In addition to Sunday morning worship and education, new and expanding ministries continue to evolve. For example, **"Cradle to Crayons"** for preschoolers and their families gather monthly for mutual support and playtime for the children; starting this month a new opportunity for our elders to gather for a **"Mid-week Coffee Hour"** will be offered on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month from 1-2pm; **"Next Chapter,"** for those experiencing the loss of a spouse meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month; our **"Quilting Ministry"** meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays; **"Children's Chapel"** is being incorporated into our worship life; **"Stephen Ministry"** will begin training new Stephen Ministers starting in January; our **"Together Tuesdays"** includes a community meal followed by music and education for all ages; **"Music Ministry,"** including the Chorale, Handbell Ensemble, and Children's Choir have resumed weekly rehearsals and our children's choir has now been expanded to include older youth as **"Junior Cantors"** who are being trained to serve as worship leaders and the **"Music Together"** program hosted at Central is currently offering seven classes each week, with 58 children enrolled (accompanied by a parent/grandparent); **"Campus Ministry"** is reaching out to UO/LCC students with Hearth & Table and new and returning Christus House residents are living and growing together in intentional Christian community; **"Central, United, & Emmaus (CUE)"** continues to collaborate in providing ministry to children, youth and families as well as congregation-wide events (see p. 8); and opportunities abound to **serve those in need** (see p. 6) and **nurture faithful living** (see p. 7).

All of which is to point out the obvious, and that is that these are just some of the ways we are seeking to live into our mission of being the hands and feet of Jesus. We—each and every one of us—are the Church together. Thanks be to God!

With gratitude to God and In Christ's Abiding Love,

+Pastor Laurie

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:18-19

Dear members of the body of Christ at Central,

The passage above from the second part of the book of Isaiah, written in the 6th century BC, is speaking to a community in Israel who has returned from exile in Babylon to discover life simply would not be the same as it used to be. Those who had been taken captive and lived through exile had hoped they would return and have the nation of Israel like they did when David was king. When they did return, though, they were met with disappointment. First, many people didn't return at all. Many remained in "diaspora" (dispersion throughout the world). Second, when they returned rather than having a nation, they found themselves with a client government ruled by the foreign Persian empire. What's more, the communities that were established were small and never compared to what the nation once was. Further, they even found other people already living there who also felt they were historic ancestors of the land and weren't very interested in this "new nation." In short, the challenges they faced were ones that they could never have imagined before. As such, the prophecy is that God is doing a new thing with them. What was once the case is now fundamentally different. The passage assures the people that while God is doing a new thing, God has not changed and God has not abandoned them. God is simply working in new ways. It was then up to them to reframe their expectations and rethink what it meant to be the people of God.

In 2023 in Eugene, we are also facing some new realities of what it means to be the church in this society. Our upheaval and rethinking are nothing in comparison to what Israel faced in the 6th century, but we can take some inspiration from them. We can recognize that God is doing new things in new spaces. While the world around us has changed (and is always changing), rather than that being something to lament, it instead provides us new and exciting opportunities. Our Tuesday evening education class is called "A New Church, A New World" and is talking about many of those opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. First, understanding where we are in our current religious landscape and then seeing what fresh and exciting options this opens up for us. If any of you are not able to make it to church on Tuesday nights, the new video series, "Theology Bits with Pastor Ben" are lessons in miniature that we will be covering. They can be found on Central's YouTube channel, Central's Facebook page, or in the Weekly Events email.

In addition to the class, our Lutherwood Congregational Retreat Day partnering with United and Emmaus is also going to be on this same topic – what are the simple realities of religiosity in the Pacific Northwest (often called the "None Zone") and what new opportunities does that provide for us? The theme is that Christ is present and acts in every age, including our own. It is up to us to see how we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in this space and this time. Please join us!

Pastor Ben

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

Christus House residents for 2023-24 are all moved in and beginning their year of “life together” in community! Their annual Fall Retreat at Camp Lutherwood anchored them in Christus House as an expression of Lutheran Campus Ministry, launched them into their “covenant” creation as a way to give shape and support to their home, and bonded them through campfire and s’mores, study, and reflection. Join us in worship on Campus Ministry Sunday, October 15th, with coffee hour following the 8:30 service at Christus House hosted by the residents.



Hearth & Table has resumed on Thursday evenings (6:30-7:30pm). This outreach to UO & LCC students is in partnership with FOOD for Lane County, providing a community meal prepared and served by our chef along with UO Duck Corps service volunteers and Christus House residents. September 28 marked the passing of the baton from Chef Ryan Josef-Maier to Chef Jamie Goodrich, and reconnected us to hungry students seeking nourishment and hospitality. At our peak this past Winter and Spring, we were serving 100 students per week.

We are grateful for this outreach to and warm care for our student neighbors!

CENTRAL, UNITED, EMMAUS (CUE) CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

All teens 6th through 12th grade are invited to join us for our bi-monthly CUE youth group meetings. We will meet every 1st and 3rd Sunday from noon to 2pm. Our time together will be focused on fellowship, service, and faith exploration. Contact Crystal if you would like more information.

All 2nd to 6th grade students are invited to join us for our CUE pre-confirmation group. We will meet every 4th Sunday from noon to 2pm. Our time together will be focused on fellowship and building on our faith community together. Contact Crystal if you would like more information.

Our CUE youth program needs your help! If you are interested in supporting our kids and teens there are two opportunities to do so in the month of October.

On Saturday, October 21st all are invited out to Lutherwood for a CUE retreat. This is an all ages event and we are looking for science-minded persons to help enhance our kids programming. Contact Crystal if you would like to discuss how you can use your passion for science and God to help with our kid-time during the retreat.

On Sunday, October 29th we will be hosting a CUE trunk-or-treat at Emmaus Lutheran at 5pm. We are in need of people willing to come and set up a car for kids to trick-or-treat. Please let Crystal know if you would be interested in decorating and hosting a car for this event. The more volunteers the more amazing this event can be for our CUE community.

PLANNING AHEAD...

Would you like help putting up your Christmas Tree?

Last year our youth group was able to help bring the joy of a Christmas tree to 4 homes. If you would like them to help you this year, please contact Crystal. We can help you put up your artificial tree or we can bring you a small real tree, for the cost of the tree. We will be coming around to set-up trees on Sunday, December 3rd.

SERVING THOSE IN NEED

First Place Families at the Annex - every Monday teams of Central members shop, cook, and deliver a home-cooked meal to FPF for upwards of 50 children and parents. The food is provided by the Eugene Mission and can be prepped in Central's kitchen or in your own home. Key Contact: Kim Meyers (541-914-8442).

Quilters from Central have been meeting regularly on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at 9am to craft beautiful hand-made quilts. Each fall these quilts, along with thousands of others, are shipped around the world by Lutheran World Relief. Join us on Quilting Sunday, October 8th to celebrate this ministry. Key Contact: Jill Liedtke (541-514-0434).

Hearth & Table, a ministry of Central, has resumed on Thursday evenings (6:30-7:30pm). As an arm of Campus Ministry this program is an outreach to UO & LCC students. Partnering with Food For Lane County, a community meal is prepared and served by our new Chef, Jamie Goodrich, along with Duck Corps volunteers and Christus House residents. Key Contact: Deacon Clare (541-345-0395).

Interfaith Food Hub needs more volunteers to help feed Eugene's hungry folks. Most food is supplied by Food For Lane County, but perishable foods are purchased with Central's Foundation helping to fund this service opportunity. Crews meet to prepare sandwiches for sack lunches. All volunteers are trained to comply with USDA regulations for safe food handling. Help is needed:

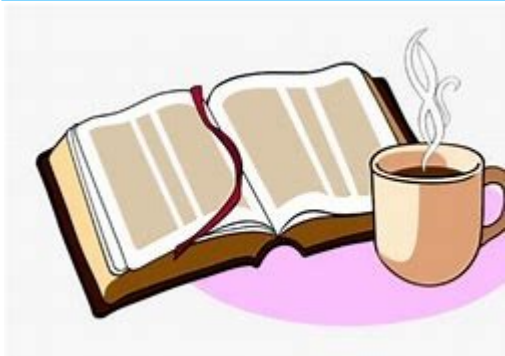
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday at First Christian Church (9-11am)
- Tuesday at St. Mary's Episcopal Church (9-11am)

Key Contact: Ginger Bopp (gingerbopp@gmail.com).

Friends In Service to Humanity (FISH), is an all-volunteer organization, which helps people in our community with essential needs such as food, propane, and prescriptions. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at Central and placed in the bin across from the Library.

Key Contact: Steve & Norma Edman (normaedman@yahoo.com).

NURTURING FAITHFUL LIVING



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study is now meeting weekly on Wednesdays at **The Springs, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd. Eugene at 8:00am**. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact Gary Wolfe (gswolfe@aol.com).

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

This Bible study follows the weekly lectionary (usually focused on the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday) and requires no prep. We meet on Zoom from 11am-noon each Wednesday to prepare our hearts, minds, and ears to hear the word of God. To receive the link directly to your inbox Email Pastor Laurie (pastorlaurie@welcometocentral.org) or Pastor Ben (pastorben@welcometocentral.org).

WOMEN'S PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Prayer and Bible Study group meets weekly on Thursdays at 11am via Zoom using the Bible study guides found in the ELCA's Gather Magazine. For more information contact Betsy Berg (rb24berg@aol.com). Newcomers are always welcome!

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Between services on the Sunday mornings of October we will have a new class called "Here We Stand: Who We Are as Central Lutheran." This class will review who Central is, what our mission and vision is, and how we engage the world around us. It will enliven our purpose as a community as well as enable us to get to know one another.

TOGETHER TUESDAYS

Pastor Ben is offering a class "A New Church, A New World" on Tuesday evenings from 6-7pm. It explores what is happening with religiosity in the Pacific Northwest known as the "None Zone" and what opportunities that provides for evangelism in today's world. Please join us!



**JOIN US FOR A
CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21st
CAMP LUTHERWOOD**

*"The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage, and keep on rising from the dead."
(ELW #729)*

Join members of Central, United, and Emmaus for The Church of Christ in Every Age, an educational and empowering retreat for all ages, engaging the question we're all asking: what it means to be church in this time and place. Come, reflect, listen, and engage on where the church has been, where the church is, and where the church is going. This intergenerational programming is for confirmation-age up through our elders. But bring the kids, too! CUE Youth & Family Coordinator Crystal Miller will bring the games and fun for all our little ones. Registration is now open. Use the QR code above to register.

CENTRAL'S DINNER GROUPS

Dinner Groups consist of 6-8 people, couples, or singles. They meet four times or more per year, depending on what the group chooses. Don't have a house big enough to host a group this size, choose a restaurant with a quiet area and host there. Everyone will pay for their own meal. We also have a Christmas party in early December with all groups attending when possible. Meals are potluck, the host/hostess provides the main course and asks the members to provide appetizers, salad and/or vegetable, potatoes, bread and dessert to compliment the meal. Drinks provided by host/hostess could include: coffee, tea, iced tea, lemonade, and water. White & red wine, most members will bring their preference. Dinner Group is a fun way to meet and get to know other church members. If you are interested in joining, email rosiehatleberg@gmail.com or call 541-726-5694, call or text her at 541-517-8143 or call Kristi at Central 541-345-0395. Current dinner group members: we need dinner group leaders!



Is God calling you to become a Stephen Minister? If so, a new training will begin in January 2024! Applications are available in the church office.

Or, would you like a caregiver? Reach out to our Stephen Leaders, Gretchen Simas (541-338-8138) or Dawn Susuico (541-852-3557), or talk to one of our pastors to find out more about this caring ministry.

A special word of thanks to our current Stephen Ministers for hosting the brunch on September 24 between services and to Henry Koscho, Sam & Paul Rodgers, Arya Saks, & Signe Smith for helping to serve the meal. Not only did we celebrate Central's Stephen Ministry, we learned more about this vital ministry which has been going on for over 30 years here! Finally, thanks to Thrivent for the grant that covered the cost of the food.

NEW OPPORTUNITY: JOIN US FOR "MIDWEEK COFFEE HOUR" (Wednesday, October 11th and 25th from 1-2pm)

Sewers Needed for Quilt Tops

Would you like to contribute to our quilt mission but can't attend in person? We are now providing kits for you to take home, sew and return. There is a basket in the narthex with kits and instructions. Each kit makes one top which we will complete during our Thursday morning quilting time. Tops are 35 squares sewed with quarter inch seams in a simple 5x7 layout. These tops are our greatest need presently so if you have time to sew even one or two we will appreciate it.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on **Monday, Oct. 9, 2023, at 7:00pm** to discuss *The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of the Donner Party* by Daniel James Brown. A New York Times Book Review says, "An ideal pairing of talent and material... Engrossing... A deft and ambitious storyteller." The #1 bestselling author of "The Boys in the Boat" details the epic saga of American emigration with rich exploration of personal, psychological, physiological, topographical, sociological, and historical context. A story at once tragic and courageous, it inspires both awe and soul searching about how we humans choose to meet life's challenges. The discussion will be led by Kathleen Heinz.



Looking Ahead: **The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, at 7:00pm** to discuss *I Have Something to Tell You: A Memoir* by Chasten Buttigieg, the husband of Pete Buttigieg. He grew up in conservative, rural Traverse City, Michigan and recounts his journey from growing up closeted, to his coming out, and finding acceptance as a gay man. He received a BA degree in theater and global studies, a MA degree in education, and began a career in teaching. He tells the story of meeting and marrying Pete Buttigieg and how he became a spokesperson, advisor, and social media campaigner for his husband. As a writer, teacher, and LGBTQ + activist, he hopes his story resonates with young people. The discussion will be led by Elizabeth Uhlig.

New members are always welcome! If you have questions or would like to be on the CLC Book Club email list, please email Betsy Berg < rb24berg@aol.com >. The repeating Zoom link is sent out before each meeting and appears in the church email, "Central Lutheran Weekly Events."

WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS



Robin Babb, Dennis Betts, Karlyn Campbell, Terry Chap, Chuck Dietz, Dal Haverland, Doug & Jody Martin, Gretchen & Jeff Simas, Gary Wolfe, the family of David Zhou, and Carol & Roger Welch at the death of Roger's brother, David.

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

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

Individual prayer is available in the chapel on the **first Sunday of the month** directly after the 8:30 service. You are invited to join one of our prayer ministers for one-on-one prayer in a private setting.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

A Special Meeting of the Congregation was held way back on Sunday, April 16th to inform the congregation of several pressing building repairs and projects that surfaced after we had approved our 2023 annual budget in January. At that meeting we voted to authorize the use of up to \$150,000 from our Capital Reserves to complete all of the necessary work. However, due to an outpouring of "above & beyond" giving, not only were we able to complete all of the projects, we wound up only needing to transfer \$5,205 from our Reserves. The chart below gives the final accounting. Thank you! And more importantly, thanks be to God, for we are truly blessed!

Central Lutheran Church 2023 Capital Building Repairs Summary

PROJECT	Estimated Cost		Actual Cost	
Signage	\$	42,000	\$	39,422
Roofing	\$	50,875	\$	47,595
South Side Wall	\$	34,500	\$	60,800
Boiler Repair	\$	8,400	\$	8,376
Anderson House Windows	\$	14,300	\$	13,791
Tree Pruning	\$	2,200	\$	2,200
Totals	\$	152,275	\$	172,184

Funding Summary

Donations	\$	125,479.50
CLC 2023 Budget	\$	18,000.00
Endowment (Signage)	\$	15,000.00
Foundation (Signage)	\$	8,500.00
Capital Reserve Acct	\$	5,205.00
Total Funding	\$	172,184.50

Central Lutheran Church

Jan-Aug 2023 Income:Expense to Budget - Jan-Aug 2022 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-Aug 2023	YTD 2023 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-Aug 2022
Regular Envelopes	\$ 369,882.93	\$ 423,333.36	\$ (53,450.43)	\$ 352,306.41
Other Offerings	\$ 4,630.30	\$ 5,200.00	\$ (569.70)	\$ 3,643.74
Holiday Offerings	\$ 10,084.00	\$ 13,733.68	\$ (3,649.68)	\$ 9,154.00
Other Income	\$ 120,315.53	\$ 24,859.36	\$ 95,456.17	\$ 57,658.33
Departmental In- come	\$ 84,598.72	\$ 82,543.76	\$ 2,054.96	\$ 65,685.25
Total Income	\$ 589,511.48	\$ 549,670.16	\$ 39,841.32	\$ 488,447.73
Total Expenses	\$ 600,993.03	\$ 572,808.42	\$ 28,184.61	\$ 531,668.80
YTD Net Income	\$ (11,481.55)	\$ (23,138.26)	\$ 11,656.71	\$ (43,221.07)
Prorated carryover- Previous Year	\$ 22,050.00	\$ 22,050.00	\$ -	\$ 25,452.00
Net after carryover applied	\$ 10,568.45	\$ (1,088.26)	\$ 11,656.71	\$ (17,769.07)

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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