

THE CENTRALITE

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Michael King, ElRay Stewart-Cook and Larry Campbell coordinated the wearing of their Scottish kilts on the last day of our Summer Garden Worship service. (Not pictured: Ben Brown also sported his familial tartan kilt.)

CENTRAL'S MISSION

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 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.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN STAFF

Pastor Laurie A Jones
pastorlaurie@welcometocentral.org
mobile: 206-354-6756

Joel Timmons, Pastoral Staff
joel@welcometocentral.org
mobile: 503-747-9869

Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook
Organist/Choirmaster
aestewcook@icloud.com

Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers
Assoc. Organist/Children's Music
lindsey.henriksen@gmail.com

Vicar Robyn Quiring
Seminarian Intern, United & Central
vicar.robyn@unitedlutheran.org

Crystal Miller, Children/Youth
Minister for Central/United/Emmaus
crystal@unitedlutheran.org

Kelly Colvin-Smith
Parish Administrator
churchoffice@welcometocentral.org

Cindy Culpepper
Financial Manager
cindy@welcometocentral.org

Celebrating our Ministries

Welcome Vicar Robyn Quiring (*they, them*)



Central and United are delighted to welcome Vicar Robyn Quiring as our shared seminary intern for the year September 2026 through August 2027.

Vicar Robyn was raised in the Central Valley of California. Upon leaving their hometown of Fresno, they spent five years in Santa Cruz, CA before spending another five years in Humboldt County. Prior to arriving in Eugene, they had lived in Berkeley for three years, where they studied at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. They are a fan of the ecology of the Pacific Northwest, and a

student of natural history more generally. Robyn spent their academic life studying psychology, philosophy, science, and religion. Raised as an evangelical, they have never been able to escape life's big questions, even when the tradition they were raised in failed to make sense to them. They spent over a decade of their young adulthood on a journey of spiritual searching before eventually finding a home in the Christian tradition. They are passionate about the good news of God in Christ, deeply moved by liturgy and sacramental theology, and empowered by God's radical grace. Robyn is an artist, poet, musician, and martial artist. When they are not working, you might find them composing a poem or a song, practicing Capoeira, cutting and pasting a collage, going on a run with their dog Blossom, reading fantasy, science-fiction, or theology, or spending time with friends and loved ones.

Central Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Brombaugh Organ



Central is honored to house one of the musical treasures in western America – the Brombaugh Organ – since it was built in 1976 by members John and Christa Brombaugh at John’s shop in Dayton, Ohio. To celebrate this milestone, Central is hosting more than a dozen concerts over the coming 16 months that are free and open to the public. See the promotional poster in the Centralite’s event section for information on the concerts. A special publication highlighting the history of the Brombaugh Organ will be published this fall.

The 56th Annual Chi Rho Series features Central’s own Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers

Join us for a weekend of study with Central’s Associate Organist and Children’s Music Director, Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers to explore the ways that the pipe organ forms sacred community, through the spoken word, hands-on exploration, and musical meditation. Lindsey will lead three free and open to the public sessions at Central on October 23rd & 24th. More details can be found on the promotional poster in the Centralite’s event section on page 17.



Central enjoyed a day at the Drifters Game



On July 26th Central members gathered to watch the local Springfield collegiate wooden bat baseball team, the Drifters. Everyone had fun cheering on the home team and enjoying complimentary hot dogs, hamburgers and refreshments. This fall, the Drifters organization is opening the new Drifters Baseball Academy for local youth and to serve as an operational hub for the team, located inside the newly renovated historic Memorial Building at 765 A St. in downtown Springfield.

Quilt Drawing on Quilt Sunday

This year there will be a drawing for the handmade quilt on display in the Sanctuary. To enter the drawing, simply make a donation (of any amount), write your name and phone number on a slip of paper, place it in the globe on the Info Table in the Narthex and you could be the winner!



All donations will be used to defray the cost of shipping and to purchase quilting supplies. If writing a check, please put "Quilters" on the memo line. Cash donations can be placed in the offering plate, in an envelope marked "Quilters." The drawing will take place after worship on the 11th, and the winner will then be contacted.

Final Sunday Summer Worship at the Garden



Thank you so much to Ike Olsson and Olsson Electric for hosting our 7th year of Summer Worship in the Garden at 11am. It was a joyous service with the prelude performed by Henry Koscho on violin, the adult chorale singing, friendly pets joining, and our Scottish-heritage members wearing their familial tartan kilts!



Annual Solicitation for Funding Special Projects

The CLC Endowment committee is actively soliciting proposals for funding special projects within the church, which are outside of the normal budget. Request forms may be obtained from the church office or online at www.connecttocentral.org and visit the [Endowment](#) page. Your proposal must be coordinated through the committee, council, relevant staff person, and/or pastor. Please have your requests delivered to the church office **by Friday, October 30th**.

CUE Youth Updates

The Lutheran churches of Central, United and Emmaus (CUE) have welcomed joining together their children and youth programs. This encourages growth and relationships across our church communities and provides opportunities for faith building across generations. We are grateful to share resources that provide our youth expanded opportunities on their faith journeys. Crystal Miller is the Minister for Children/Youth/Families for CUE.

Central Youth Have Fun at Camp Lutherwood

Eleven Central youth joined their peers from CUE and around the state, along with CUE church leaders Pastors Eric, Andrew and Joel to attend one of the six camps hosted by Camp Lutherwood in Cheshire, Oregon, this past summer. Scholarships to help our families cover the cost of camp for their children and youth were in part provided through Central's Endowment Fund, donations for softball parking, and individual contributions. Camp Lutherwood provided our youth opportunities for faith formation, bonding with each other, and making new friends.

Pictures highlighted here include four Central youth who attended

Confirmation Camp,
June 29th – July 2nd;
Alex Hougen, Sam
Rodgers, Ari Saks,
and Signe Smith.







Day at the Beach!

Central/United/Emmaus middle and high schoolers joined together for a final summer outing to the beach in Newport for fun, sun and fellowship in early September before the school year started up again!

CUE Confirmation Kick-Off & Completion

First-year and second-year confirmation students from Central/United/Emmaus joined together September 20th with their mentors and church leaders for an afternoon of pizza and mini-golf to get to know one another or catch up after the summer break. Then



on September 23rd the first & second-year confirmation students, along with their parents, attended their first orientation meeting with church leaders to hear about what the students will be learning on their two-year confirmation journey. Students attend three sessions throughout the program year and rotate between each church – United in the fall, Emmaus in the Winter and Central in the Spring. Also, three of Central's youth have completed their confirmation journey and will be confirmed during the 8:30am worship service on October 25th – Charlie Bodner, Alex Hougland, and Anders Smith.

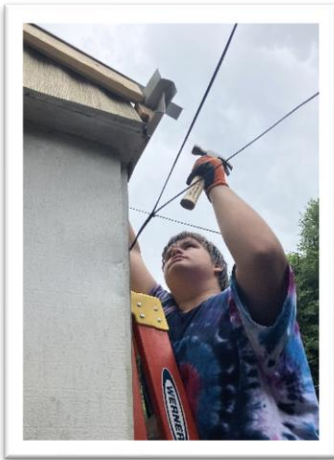
High School Youth Make a Difference in Appalachia

By Crystal Miller



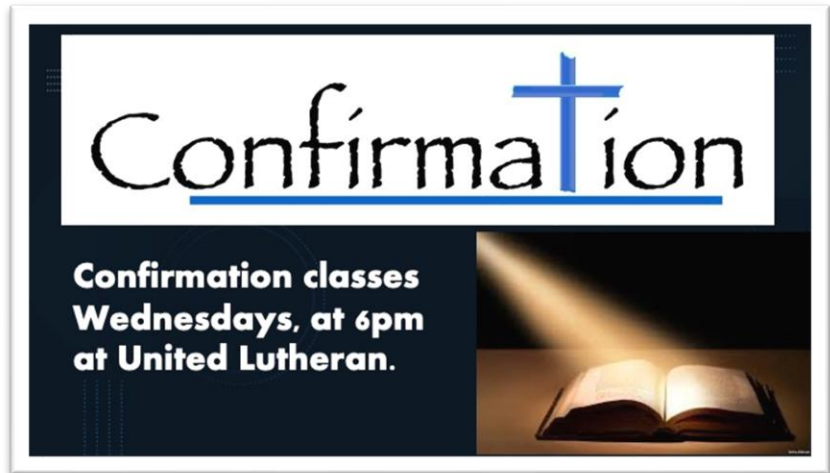
Thank you to everyone who supported our CUE teen service trip in July. Six teens and two adults traveled to Jonesville, Virginia, and worked with the Appalachia Service Project. We helped to frame out new exterior walls to provide weatherization and insulation for a local homeowner. She was an amazing woman who spent her life

as a caregiver and nurse driving to help others and it was a wonderful opportunity for us to give something to her. Our teens had the opportunity to spend time getting to know her and hear her story. Our week was spent working together, exploring faith, compassion, and acts of service, and learning about a community new to us. It was a great experience for everyone involved.



Fall Term

1st & 2nd year students are encouraged to join their peers & group leaders for dinner at 5:30pm.



Music Updates

Oregon Bach Festival Helps Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Brombaugh Organ

By ElRay Stewart-Cook, Organist/Choirmaster



On July 6th the Oregon Bach Festival came to Central for the first organ concert of the 50th anniversary series featuring Paul Jacobs, Professor of Organ at the Juilliard School in New York City to a very enthusiastic, sold-out audience. As well as the concert, Paul taught a week of organ classes to students from around the world—Australia, Italy, China—in the annual Organ Institute. I also gave the students an overview of how the Brombaugh organ is different than most of the organs they may have encountered. Later

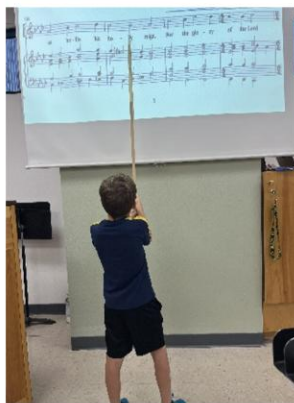
in the week, Lindsey and I presented a joint concert for the Oregon Bach Festival. It was a great kick off of the series which included the entire community for our celebrations. Enjoy the following pictures.

Pictures from left to right: Dr. Paul Jacobs on the Brombaugh Organ at Central; Dr. Jacobs performing for organ students; an enthusiastic audience for Dr. Jacobs' OBF performance; Dr. ElRay Stewart-Cook showcasing the unique qualities of the Brombaugh to visiting students.



Children's Choir and Jr. Cantors Annual Retreat

Each September before the program year begins, the Children's Choir and Jr. Cantors led by Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers, spend a full day at Central to prepare for the year ahead. The children and youth warm up their singing voices, run around to get the wiggles out, and enjoy plenty of food and snacks to keep them energized for the day!



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.

Congratulations to Heidi Knebel on her new role!

Heidi Knebel, daughter of Rodger and Debbie Knebel, transitioned into the role of Development Associate and Communications Manager at Camp Lutherwood after working as the Office Manager and Registrar since graduating from Montana State, Bozeman, December 2024. Well done Heidi!

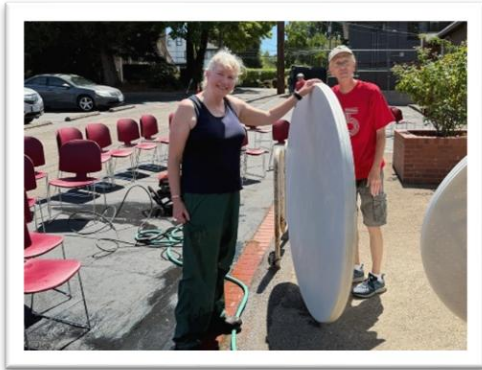


Sienna Davis Helps Quilters this Summer



Sienna Davis, granddaughter of Mason and Lorraine Davis, jumped in to help the Central quilters during a visit to Central this summer. Sienna. Pictured here with quilter, Becky Surmon, Sienna proved to be a quick learner and helped the quilters assemble quilt tops our quilters will be sending off to LWR in October. Don't forget to enter the drawing to win a beautiful handmade quilt – while supporting the costs to ship quilts to people around the world (see page 5 for details).

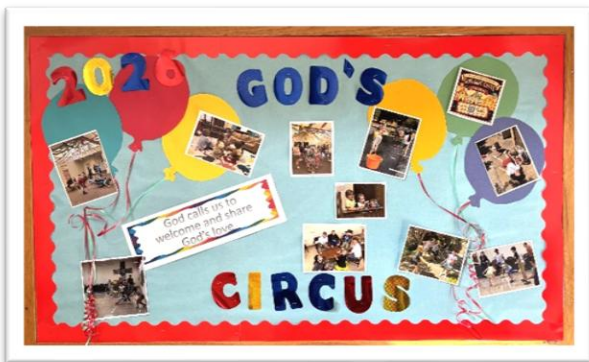
We are Grateful for Helpful Hands at the Church



Thank you to Debbie Knebel and Dan Buckwalter for rolling up their sleeves and power-washing ALL of the Parish Hall tables and chairs in the parking lot this past August! It's much appreciated by all those who regularly enjoy meals and fellowship together.

Check out the Updated Bulletin Boards Outside the Gathering Room!

Thanks to Julie Knebel and Carrie Johnson for decorating a fun and colorful bulletin board to showcase this past summer's successful VBS. Also thank you to Jeanne Henriksen and Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers for creating the eye-catching bulletin board featuring the Children's Choir and Junior Cantors hard at work and play! Stay tuned for more new bulletin board themes coming this fall.



Special Events & Services Coming Up

Please put these special dates on your calendar!

- Blessing of the Animals during worship – October 4th
- Special Congregational Meeting between services – October 4th
- Quilt Sunday – October 11th
- Chi Rho Series – October 23rd & 24th
- Reformation Sunday – Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation October 25th at 8:30 worship service (wear red!)
- All Saints Day/Requiem in worship (both services) – November 1st and All Saints Day Service of Remembrance in the Memorial Courtyard at 5pm
- Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker Bonhoeffer Lecture Series at Emmaus – November 6th-7th
- Caroline Robinson Brombaugh Organ Concert – Nov 22nd at 4pm
- Red Cross Blood Drive – Tuesday, Nov. 24th from 10am-3pm
- Advent Lessons and Carols – Sunday, December 6th at 4:30pm with complimentary soup supper following

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Upon the recommendation of the Call Committee, the Church Council is calling for a special congregational meeting to be held Sunday, October 4th, at 9:45am in the Parish Hall 1) to vote on extending a two-year term call to Joel Timmons to serve as Associate Pastor; and 2) to approve his Compensation and Benefits package.

CHI RHO 2026

Lead, Wood, Air, Flesh, and Bone:

Musical Elements of Sacred Space

A Weekend of Study with
Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers

October 23-24, 2026

Central Lutheran Church
18th and Potter St., Eugene, Oregon

*Join us to explore the ways that
the pipe organ forms sacred community,
through the spoken word, hands-on
exploration, and musical meditation.*

Lead, Wood, Air, Flesh, and Bone: Musical Elements of Sacred Space

Friday, October 23, 7:00 pm

Our kickoff evening will feature an interactive presentation exploring the role of the pipe organ in forming sacred communities. The program will focus on the organ both practically and imaginatively: an object that is equally a functional musical instrument, an exquisite piece of artisanal craftsmanship, and a symbol of multi-faceted human cooperation.

All Ages Pipe Organ Exploration

Saturday, October 24, 10:00 am

Come discover how a pipe organ works! In addition to learning about the renowned Brombaugh organ at Central Lutheran Church, participants young and old will be able to build a real, functioning pipe organ. The "Do-Organ" kit, on loan from OrgelKids USA, contains 133 parts that groups can assemble in under an hour, bringing the science, engineering, and music of the instrument to life.

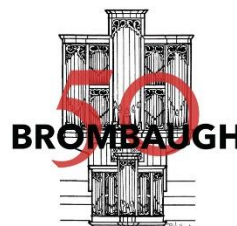
Organ Vespers

Saturday, October 24, 4:00 pm

CLC's Organ Vespers series features meditative programs interspersing organ music and poetry. This Organ Vespers will focus on the pipe organ as a source of poetic imagination, one that often symbolizes community and interdependence.



Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers is Assistant Teaching Professor of Musicology and Organ at the University of Oregon. She is a musicologist and organist whose work combines academic research and professional performance. She serves as Associate Organist and Children's Choir Director at Central Lutheran Church in Eugene, Oregon, where she has worked since 2006. She is a past dean of the Eugene Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



50th Anniversary of the Brombaugh Organ

"One of the Musical Treasures of Western America"

Sponsored by Central's St. Cecilia Music Endowment Fund

All events are on Sunday at 4 p.m. and are free unless otherwise noted.

2026-2027

Oregon Bach Festival at Central Lutheran
Monday, July 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Paul Jacobs (Ticketed event)
Friday, July 10, at 2:30 p.m.
Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers
Andrew ElRay Stewart-Cook

September 27
Friends' Concert
Andrew ElRay Stewart-Cook
Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers
with friends

November 1
Rutter Requiem
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Central Chorale and Orchestra

November 22
Caroline Robinson
Lyle & Iris Jacobson Celebrity Organ Series
Professor of Organ
University of Michigan

December 6, at 4:30 p.m.
Advent Lessons and Carols
Central Chorale,
Jr. Cantors & Children's Choir
Central Handbell Ensemble

January 24, 2027
Zachary Duell
Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
Corvallis, Oregon

February 7, 2027
Handel Organ Concerti
Andrew ElRay Stewart-Cook, Organist
Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers, Organist
Central Chamber Orchestra

March 7, 2027
Andrew Schaeffer
Luther Memorial Church
Madison, Wisconsin

April 11, 2027
Kraig Scott
Walla, Walla University
Walla Walla, Washington

May 2, 2027
Haydn's Great Organ Solo Mass
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Central Chorale and Orchestra

September 26, 2027
Bach Cantatas
Soloists and Central Chamber Orchestra

November 7, 2027
Mozart Requiem
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Central Chorale and Orchestra

November 21, 2027
Nathan Laube
Lyle & Iris Jacobson Celebrity Organ Series
Professor of Organ
Eastman School of Music

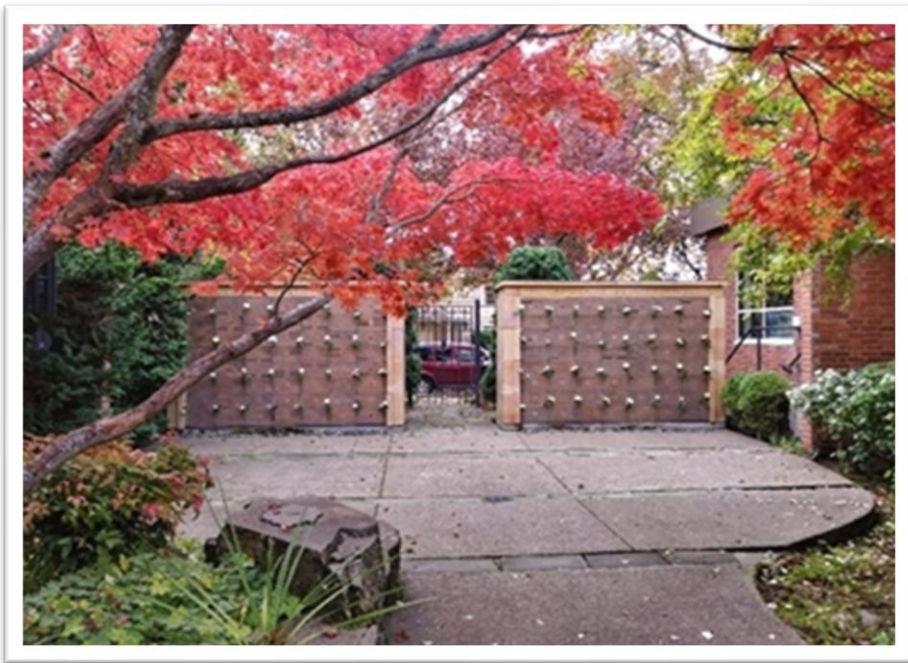


CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
18th and Potter Street
Eugene, Oregon

Dr. Andrew ElRay Stewart-Cook, Organist/Choirmaster (1984 - present)
Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers, Associate Organist/Choirmaster (2006 - present)

**All Saints Day
Service of Remembrance
Sunday, November 1st at 5pm**

To commemorate All Saints Day, you are invited to gather in the Memorial Courtyard to remember the lives of our beloved siblings in Christ who have joined the Church triumphant since last All Saints Day, as well as all the dearly departed saints of every time and place.



(Plan A: rain or shine—outside; Plan B: heavy rain—move to the chapel; either way: dress accordingly)

BONHOEFFER: WITH COURAGE AND HUMILITY

C.U.E. DAY OF LEARNING

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor executed by the Nazis in 1945, is widely remembered for his brave resistance to Hitler. In this series sponsored by Central, United, and Emmaus Lutheran churches (CUE), presenter Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker explores how Bonhoeffer's ethical approach uniquely pairs boldness with profound humility and offers a crucial blueprint for navigating unsettled times today. *All events hosted at Emmaus Lutheran Church (1250 W. 18th Ave.)*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM | LECTURE: "A PROFILE IN COURAGE AND HUMILITY."

- An introduction to Bonhoeffer's life and ethical framework, examining how faith and responsibility intersect when the ground feels like it is moving under our feet.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM | WORKSHOP: "WITH COURAGE AND HUMILITY: BONHOEFFER'S ETHICAL APPROACH FOR US TODAY"

- Part 1: Presentation based on Dr. Brocker's paper from the XIV International Bonhoeffer Congress and his forthcoming book from Fortress Press.
- Part 2: Guided case study using a discernment process inspired by Bonhoeffer's ethics.



ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker is a scholar and author specializing in Dietrich Bonhoeffer's ethics. His forthcoming book, *With Courage and Humility: Bonhoeffer's Ethical Approach for Us Today*, is published by Fortress Press.