

July-August
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*

Central's Staff

Pastor Laurie A. Jones
pastorlaurie@
welcometocentral.org
(206-354-6756)

Pastor Ben Nickodemus
pastorben@welcometocentral.org
(208-290-1165)

Campus Minister/Christus House
Deacon Clare Josef-Maier
clare@begoodsoil.org

Organist/Choirmaster
Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Assoc. Organist/Children's Music
Dr. Lindsey H. Rodgers

Parish Administrator
Kristi Hoiland

Financial Manager
Cindy Culpepper

Minister to Children, Youth &
Families for CUE
Crystal Miller

Video & Tech Support
Thomas Stine

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

Upcoming events in July and August

- **Litter Clean up July 29 at 9am.** Meet at Campbell Community Center. Gloves and bags provided. If you have litter collection sticks, please bring them along.
- **ELCA Study for Civic Life and Faith:**
- Tuesdays at 7pm in August (through the first week of September).

Central Lutheran is hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, August 22nd, from 10am-3pm in the Parish Hall.



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Colossians 2:6-7

Dear fellow members of God's creation at Central,

We are in the midst of a new "Season of Creation" which Central, United, and Emmaus Lutheran have all incorporated within our "Season after Pentecost." In that Season of Creation we have as our overarching theme, "Rooted in God's Living Soil." We are doing quite a bit of observation and thinking of what it means to be "rooted." This metaphor in Scripture has many implications. For this brief letter, I'd like just to recognize three aspects: roots ground and strengthen; roots nourish; roots intertwine with others.

Roots ground and strengthen us. We see the massive trees that stand hundreds of feet up and we understand that they can only stand and continue to live because of the roots below them. They are incredibly resilient to weather and damage so long as those roots below, that largely remain hidden from view, remain healthy and strong. In the Colossians text above, we are rooted in Christ. That can sometimes be hidden amidst the challenges we face in life, but it is always present. It is what grounds our beings and provides us the hope to continue.

Roots nourish us. We are rooted and built up in Christ – established in faith. The faith of Christ is not something that just nourishes us so that we can live, it enlivens us so that we can act. Notice the language in Col 2:7: "continue to walk in him" – usually moving around and walking is not tied to being "rooted" – yet, that is precisely what Paul says in Colossians. The roots we have in Christ nourish us so much that they empower us to be able to move and act in the world, not just stay standing in one place. That's how rich the nourishment we get from our rooting in Christ is – it causes us to act toward others in the very same grace we have received.

Roots intertwine with others. The very large trees we see in the world do not just stand because their roots are vast. In addition to the roots being vast, the very large trees' roots intertwine with the roots of all the trees around them. It is not just about one strong tree, but instead about the entire forest. Being rooted in Christ is further being rooted in all those others who also are in Christ. We are a community of faith. Being rooted in Christ is being rooted in one another.

And so we conclude alongside the apostle Paul "abounding in thanksgiving" for this creation. In Christ is our grounding, our nourishment, and our community. I pray this Season of Creation has helped us all see that.

Pastor Ben

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

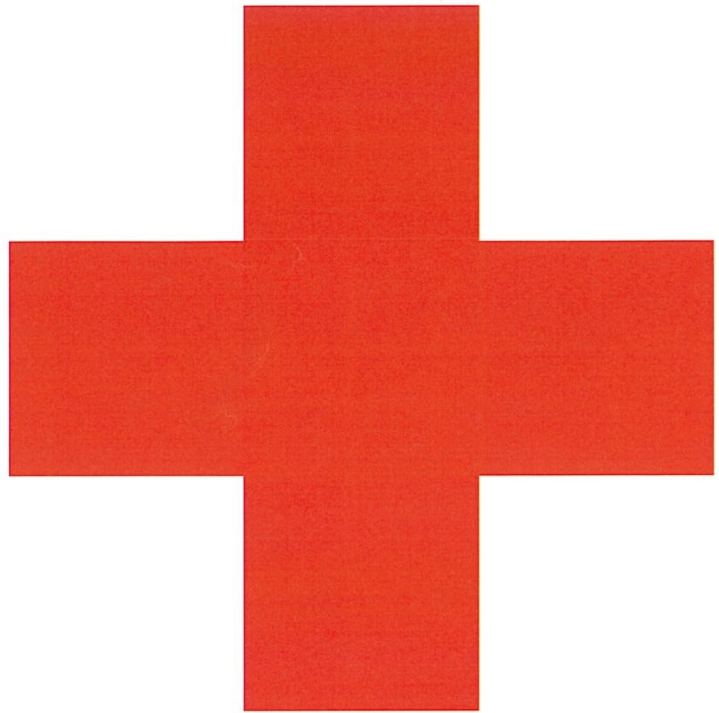
Vacation Bible School was a great success! We had over 30 children throughout the week from Central, United, and Emmaus as well as the larger community. It was a joyous and enriching time for all. Special thanks to all who provided supplies, volunteers, or who helped out in any way!



Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Central Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall
1857 Potter Street
Eugene, OR 97403

Tuesday, August 22, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code:
centrallutheraneugene, or call Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting
RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health
history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass #



**Download the Blood Donor App today. Get your digital
donor card, schedule your next appointment, track your
lifetime donations, view your blood pressure, and follow
your donation on its way to a hospital.**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



ELCA Study for Civic Life and Faith

The ELCA Task Force on Studies for Civic Life and Faith has released a study curriculum for use throughout our church. The task force is inviting **all of us** to join a conversation about religious liberty, the proper role of the church in relation to government, and many other critical topics.

Pastor Ben and Deacon Clare will be hosting this weekly study on Zoom on **Tuesdays at 7pm in August (through the first week of September)**.

Tuesday, August 1 - Session 1: "How Is God's Invitation to Discipleship Lived Out in a Democracy?"

Tuesday, August 8 - Session 2: "How Do Christians Address Controversial Civic Issues?"

Tuesday, August 15 - Session 3: "What Are Lutheran Views on Civic Life?"

Tuesday, August 22 - Session 4: "What Are the Objectives of Democracy in the United States?"

Tuesday, August 29 - Session 5: "What's Faith-based Living Got to Do With Civic Life?"

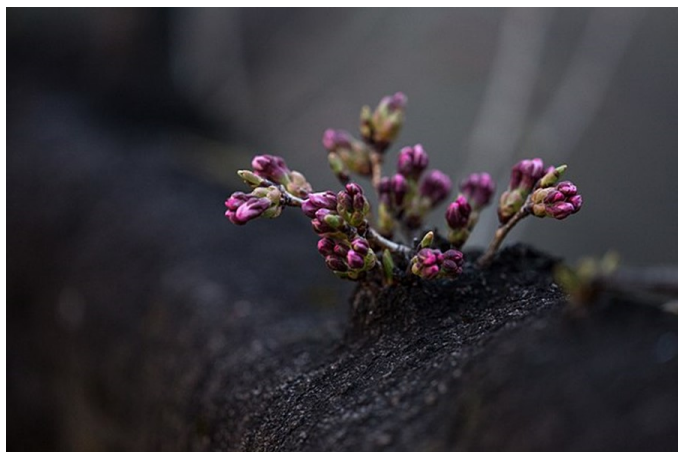
Tuesday, September 5 - Session 6: "How Do We Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord in Civic Life?"

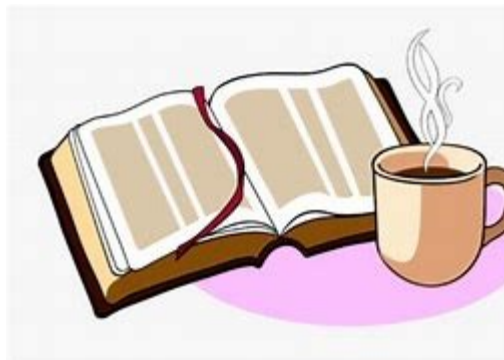
A response form after each session lets participants communicate with the task force itself on the material covered. Join us for any or all of these sessions on Zoom [here](#).

SEASON OF CREATION

Behold God is doing a new thing!
 This July we have observed a Season of Creation which is a new aspect of our collaboration with United and Emmaus Lutheran. This is the first time we have observed a Season of Creation in this particular way. It has been structured around the theme of being "**Rooted in God's Living Soil.**" We are exploring themes of *being* creation as humanity (July 9); the reciprocity and relationship of created life (July 16); the lament and grief of brokenness and destruction (July 23); and, the resurrection and hope of new creation (July 30).

We are also invited into closer community with one another and the world around us as we went through a guided nature hike through the Mt. Pisgah arboretum on July 15 and an upcoming riverside litter clean-up (July 29). We give thanks for the energizing collaboration we have with our South Eugene Lutheran neighbors!





OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TO ENGAGE IN *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).

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!



Highlights from Church Council

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

The Church Council met on June 21, 2023

Treasurer's Report: See last page

Action Items:

A motion passed to create three "emergency cooling rooms" in Christus House in currently vacant rooms over the summer by installing three (one for each room) portable air conditioners at a projected cost of approximately \$900-1,200. These rooms would then revert to normal Resident rooms in the fall.

A motion to affirm the appointment of Drew Haugen to the Endowment Committee for a three-year term was made, seconded and approved by Council.



Quilting Needs

Cleaning closets this summer? Central quilters always need bed sheets for quilt backs. No white sheets, please. Twin flat, or bigger, no tears or stains. We're no longer using fitted sheets. We can turn your sheets into beautiful quilts bound for India, Africa and elsewhere. There is a box in the hallway outside the library for donations.

All are welcome to join the quilting ministry team! Join us for quilting the first and third Thursdays of the month. No experience necessary. Call the office for more information.

The CLC Book Club will meet via ZOOM on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. to discuss ***Demon Copperhead*** by Barbara Kingsolver. Set in present-day Appalachia, this retelling of a literary classic (David Copperfield) is told from the point of view of Damon Fields, a boy born to a trailer-park mother and a father who has disappeared. In her acknowledgements, Ms. Kingsolver says, "I'm grateful to Charles Dickens for writing David Copperfield, his impassioned critique of institutional poverty and its damaging effects on children in his society. Those problems are still with us." The discussion will be led by Meg Hicks.



Looking Ahead: 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.

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

Lue Berg, Terry Chap, Chuck Dietz, Dal Haverland, Cyndy Lane, Doug & Jody Martin, Gretchen & Jeff Simas, Gary Wolfe, and the family of David Zhou; we extend our sympathy to Gaye Haverland upon the death of her brother.

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.



Central Lutheran Church

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

	Jan-June 2023	YTD 2023 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-June 2022
Regular Envelopes	\$ 278,683.41	\$ 317,500.02	\$ (38,816.61)	\$ 268,781.41
Other Offerings	3,672.30	3,900.00	\$ (227.70)	\$ 2,633.57
Holiday Offerings	10,084.00	13,733.68	\$ (3,649.68)	\$ 9,154.00
Other Income	116,273.04	18,652.02	\$ 97,621.02	\$ 11,288.75
Departmental Income	68,258.42	64,312.00	\$ 3,946.42	\$ 55,239.93
Total Income	\$ 476,971.17	\$ 418,097.72	\$ 58,873.45	\$ 347,097.66
Total Expenses	\$ 472,493.08	\$ 439,843.04	\$ 32,650.04	\$ 407,715.81
YTD Net Income	\$ 4,478.09	\$ (21,745.32)	\$ 26,223.41	\$ (60,618.15)
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 16,537.50	\$ 16,537.50	-	\$ 19,089.00
Net after carryover applied	\$ 21,015.59	\$ (5,207.82)	\$ 26,223.41	\$ (41,529.15)

ADDRESS CHANGES



Please make the following changes in
your directory

Judy Collins

175 So. Garden Way, Apt. #227

Eugene 97401 (same phone numbers)

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1857 POTTER STREET EUGENE 97403

541-345-0395

WEBSITE: WWW.WELCOMETOCENTRAL.ORG