

THE CENTRALITE

February 2021



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN
CHRIST CONGREGATION

Central's Staff

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

Vicar Ben Nickodemus
Pastoral Intern

Minister to Christus House
& Campus Ministry
Sister Clare Josef-Maier

Organist/Choirmaster
A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Associate Organist
Lindsey H. Rodgers

Parish Nurse
Sally Diehm

Parish Administrator
Kristi Hoiland

Financial Manager
Cindy Culpepper

Children, Youth & Family
Coordinator Crystal Miller

Church Council

President, Dennis Lindsay
Vice Pres, Larry Sutton
Secretary, Jack Bennett
Treas, Charlotte Bontrager
Matt Haugen
Chris Henry
Lauralie Kallinen
Sonia Macke
Sheri Pyron

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*

WORSHIP WITH US Our Sunday Schedule

- **Sundays at 9am from home via live-stream**
- **Sundays at 9am in the Sanctuary (cap. 50)**
- **Sundays at 11am via Zoom (no in person)**

Worship with us from home via live-stream at 9am, in person at 9am or via Zoom at 11am. In keeping with OHA guidelines, worshipping in person at 9am requires registration. You can register by calling the church office or by going online at connecttocentral.org. If you need the zoom link for the 11am service click [here](#).



**BEGINS ON ASH
WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 17TH
(see page 2 for
details)**

Dear Friends and Members of Central,

First of all, a word of thanks to everyone who was able to participate in our Annual Meeting via Zoom. We had 72 voting members in attendance, and while I know it was not ideal, nevertheless it was important for us to tend to the business of Central Lutheran Church and the Central Lutheran Foundation. I also know it was particularly difficult for us to entertain questions or concerns you may have had so please feel free to reach out to me or council President, Dennis Lindsay for clarification.

Second, it doesn't seem possible, but in just a few short weeks we will begin another Lenten season. In light of the current limitations we are going to try something a little different this year. Beginning with Ash Wednesday our Lenten worship services will be pre-recorded and available for viewing by noon on Wednesday each week throughout Lent. In addition, during weeks 1-5 of Lent we will be recording these worship services on a rotating basis with two of our partner congregations, United and Emmaus, with whom we also share a collaborative children and youth ministry program. Over the course of the five weeks you will hear five different preachers (two from Central, one from United and two from Emmaus) as we share one another's pulpits.

In addition to Central's Ash Wednesday recorded worship service, we will offer an opportunity for you to receive ashes on your forehead during a drive-by in the parking lot between 12-1pm and again between 5-6pm.

During the intervening weeks the schedule is as follows:

- Lent 1 on 2/24 will be hosted by Central;
- Lent 2 on 3/3 will be hosted by Emmaus;
- Lent 3 on 3/10 will be hosted by United;
- Lent 4 on 3/17 will be hosted by Central; and
- Lent 5 on 3/24 will be hosted by Emmaus.

More information will be forthcoming on Holy Week and the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Vigil of Easter) in next month's Centralite. Those will be independent of the rotation as described above.

We hope to make this a meaningful Lenten journey for all of us as we make our way to celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Abiding Love,

+Pastor Laurie

From Vicar Ben

"Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me." Gal. 1:21-24

Paul describes his formation as a new follower of Jesus and a new worker of the church. He suggests that only three years after his conversion he was heading into regions and churches unknown to him. He specifically says that he was "still unknown by sight" to the new churches he was visiting. They had, however, heard of him. What's more, they heard that he had converted and they make a striking affirmation: they say he was "proclaiming the faith." Even though they have not met him yet, they affirm that the faith he is proclaiming is the same faith that they held themselves. The churches in Syria and Cilicia had a message of welcome – they could see by Paul's actions that the faith he held was the faith that they held. Paul was not known by sight to these churches, and in fact, he wasn't known by sight to almost any churches. Paul had an itinerant ministry, always moving from place to place with his mission of going to people who had never heard anything about Christ at all (Rom 15:20) much less himself. By the time that a community began to actually get to know Paul, Paul would move on to plant another church in another place. Few knew Paul's face, but many had heard about him.

Even though with these churches. I have only been able to meet a few of you and know very few of you by face. I have had an opportunity to meet a handful of you via zoom, but in these times of COVID, it is simply hard to get acquainted, and especially hard to get acquainted through fellowship with shared meals, laughter, and support. However, like the churches in Syria and Cilicia, Holly and I have felt the sense of welcome at Central and seeing what church really is – a shared sense of ourselves beyond the walls of the sanctuary and into a shared sense of ourselves in our homes. COVID has shown us more than ever that our community is from house to house rather than simply a number of people who happen to get together for a worship service. These "zoom meetings" are a digital way to see each other where they are in their space, and to show what community is. It is a strange sense of "being together without being together," but perhaps we can see this as an opportunity as well as the obvious limitation. It shows us that who we are as a congregation is a family together. Paul would have relished the opportunity to see where people live as well as how to meet one another. Perhaps we ought to see that as a value as well.

I look forward to getting to connect with you and your households, hearing your stories, and getting to know each other by sight.

Blessings,

Vicar Ben



WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Ed Anderson; David Beckstein; Lou Berg; Terry Chap; Nicole Christie; Richard Cook; Greg Foote; Doug Martin; Marie Miller; Bob Reed; Pam Scarberry; Gayle Shields; and Richard White. We extend our sympathy to: Yvonne Wildish, Mike & Sonia Wildish; Noelle & Chad, Elliot, Reier Tennyson, Steve & Kim Wildish, Jonathan & Geoffrey Wildish upon the death of Jim; and also to Jim & Ann, Wil, Holly & Peter Anderson, Trisha & Scott, Ian, Morgan, Erin Howell, John; Paula and Dean and their families upon the death of Greta Anderson.

An Invitation from Central's Prayer Ministry Team

Submit a prayer request!

If you would like to submit a prayer request, you can do so by sending an email directly to prayers@welcometocentral.org. Please tell us your name and the reason for your request. If you are asking on behalf of someone other than yourself, please seek their permission first. Prayers can be for thanksgiving, health, struggles, guidance, support, or anything else you desire. Central's Prayer Advocates are committed to keeping your prayer concerns and thanksgivings in our daily prayers.



Walking and Praying Together!

In addition, if you would like to join friends from Central in a prayer walk, Ruth Vettrus has started a walking & praying group that meets in the Church parking lot on Thursdays from 4-5pm to pray while walking around the neighborhood. Contact Ruth for more information at Ruth.Vettrus@gmail.com.

News from Central's Book Club



The CLC Book Club will meet on **Monday, February 8, 2021, at 7:00pm** via Zoom to discuss ***All You Can Ever Know: A Memoir*** by Nicole Chung. Adopted as a baby by a loving white family, Chung explores her experience as the only Asian person in an Oregon town nestled "in a valley in sight of three mountain ranges." She writes with empathy that considers the perspectives of every-

one in her story: especially herself, her adoptive parents, and her birth family. "Though the story is intensely personal, it's never myopic and ultimately, it's universal: a story about learning to grapple with our own identities, about learning where we belong, and about families." (NPR Books) An engaging read that is a nuanced and compassionate look at adoption, race in America and families in general. (NPR) The discussion will be led by Kathleen Heinz.

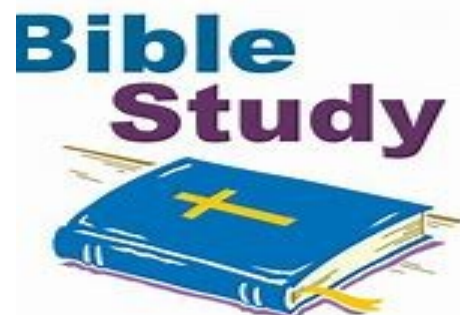
The ZOOM link will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

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 at rb24berg@aol.com.

Looking Ahead: **The CLC Book Club** will meet on **Monday, March 8, 2021, at 7:00pm** via Zoom to discuss ***American Dirt*** by Jeanine Cummins. The discussion will be led by Gary Wolfe.

Thanks to Sarah Gillem for representing Central at Camp Lutherwood's Annual Meeting on February 6, (via Zoom) **and to Debbie Knebel** for agreeing to serve on the Board of Camp Lutherwood.

Pastor's Wednesday Bible Study
via Zoom at 11am. No preparation needed. If you'd like to join us as we study the upcoming Sunday lectionary texts. To receive the link to your inbox email pastorlaurie@welcometocentral.org.



Help Needed — Can we count on you?

Each week a meal is prepared and delivered to the First Place Families living at the Annex. The food is picked up from the Eugene Mission on Fridays. Members of Central take turns preparing the meal in the kitchen at church or in their own homes over the weekend. The home-cooked meal is then delivered to the Annex on Monday afternoons for their evening meal. If you'd like to find out how you can help with one or more of these tasks call (541-914-8442) or email Kim Meyers [here](#).

A Message from Caring4Creation Faith Community Fund

During this pandemic, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have dropped, which is the good news. But we are all individually still adding CO2 into the environment. If you are concerned about your carbon footprint, and want to mitigate it, here is a way to address it locally.

The Faith Community Fund (FCF) was created in 2007 as a way for people of faith to support local organizations that are working to conserve and protect natural areas in western Oregon. If you are interested in protecting God's wonderful creation, you might consider donating to the FCF. Funds donated to the McKenzie River Trust will be used to restore local areas by planting trees, shrubs and other plants.

Place FCF in memo line and indicate if 50% should go to Long Tom Watershed Council and 50% to McKenzie River Trust

Make checks payable to:
McKenzie River Trust
120 Shelton Blvd. Suite 270
Eugene, OR 97401

Canned Food Drive: Wednesdays in February at the Student Pantry!



What: Collection of nonperishable food to support the Student Food Pantry and FOOD For Lane County (FFLC)

Where: Grace Lutheran Church parking lot, northeast corner of 18th and Hi-lyard

When: Every Wednesday in February, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Need to know: Masks are required. Only nonperishable, in-date food items can be accepted. If you're able to stay in your car and drop off your donation by drive-thru, this is preferred. See the most-wanted list (below) for ideas of items most needed by the Pantry and FFLC.

Though much has changed for the 2021 Governor's State Employees Food Drive, we know that food insecurity in our community remains as prevalent as ever, and in fact the need has grown in the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is reflected in the UO student population as well—food insecurity on campus persists. At the same time FOOD For Lane County, which stocks the shelves for the Student Food Pantry, has been unable to hold some of their largest canned food drives due to the pandemic, and the variety of nonperishable foods received at these communal events is difficult to replicate.

To address this need, the UO Food Drive Steering Committee has partnered with the UO Food Security Task Force, as well as Oregon Cheerleading, to host a series of canned food drives every Wednesday throughout the month of February. University volunteers and Oregon Cheerleaders will be accepting nonperishable food donations. Donations that the student pantry can't store immediately will go to FFLC's central warehouse for distribution to the Lane County community. In order to highlight some of the most-wanted foods, each day has been themed to encourage donation of goods most sought-after.

February 3 – Shelf-Stable Proteins

Nut butters: peanut butter, almond butter, 1 lb bags of dried legumes: black beans, pinto beans, chickpeas, lentils, canned beans, canned tuna, canned chicken, canned ham, Protein powder.

February 10 – Culturally Appropriate Foods

Dried lentils, chickpeas, split peas and beans (1 lb bags), Mole, canned salsas, curry paste and packets, masa, chiles, spices

February 17 – Meal Building Blocks

Hearty soups (consider vegetarian options too!), plant-based milks: almond milk, rice milk, oat milk. granola, cereal, pancake mix, baking mix, olive oil, cooking spray , jarred pasta sauce

February 24 – Canned Fruits and Veggies

Canned fruit (in juice), low-sugar dried fruit, applesauce, canned peas, canned carrots, canned corn, canned diced tomatoes



NEWS ABOUT CENTRAL'S HEARTH & TABLE

Did you know? Since Fall 2020, Hearth & Table has shifted from a weekly in person community meal for food insecure University students to "Grab & Go" meals. Chef Ryan Josef-Maier is preparing these nutritious home-cooked meals every Tuesday and Christus House residents distribute the meals from our church parking lot between 5-6pm with anywhere from 25-40 meals being given out each week to students. Food and monetary donations to support Hearth & Table are provided by Food for Lane County and a generous ELCA Hunger Grant.



Address change

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CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OR WWW.CONNECTTOCENTRAL.ORG