

November 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, Brent Moeller
Ron Fenchak
Teri Gillis
Matt Haugen
Howard Kallinen
Jill Liedtke
Todd Shorack
Chuck Swenson

All Saints Day

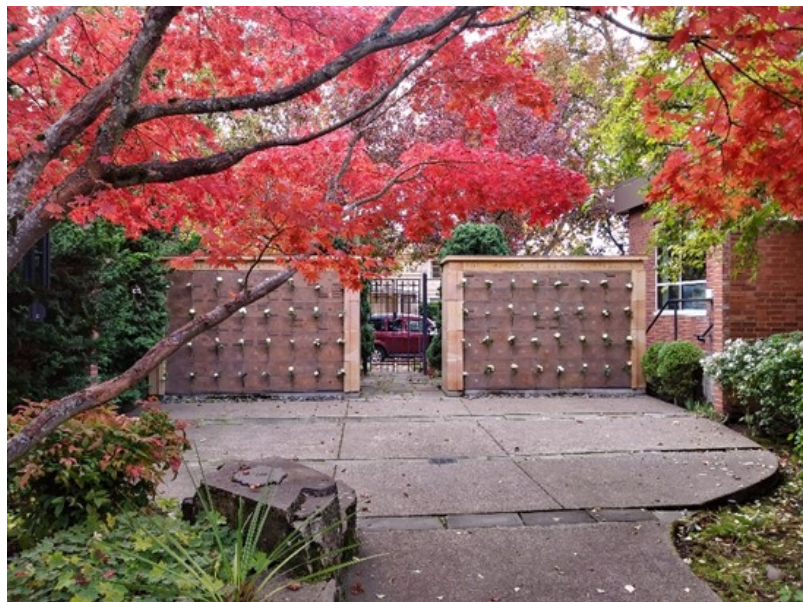
Service of Remembrance

Wednesday, November 1st at 5pm

Central's Memorial Courtyard

Once again, to commemorate All Saints Day, we will gather in the 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 of the dearly departed saints of every time and place.

Plan to join us (rain or shine)!



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE

By all your saints still striving, for all your saints at rest,
your holy name, O Jesus, forever more be blessed.
For you arose victorious that they might wear the crown
and share the light of glory reflected from your throne.
(ELW #421, v. 1)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Every year when All Saints Day draws near, I find myself reminiscing about all of our siblings in Christ and my/our beloved family members and friends who now rest from their labors. I like to imagine them at peace in the loving arms of Jesus, shining like the Son/sun. That image comes in part from one of the beloved hymns of the faith, *"For all the saints"* which we typically sing on All Saints Sunday and sometimes at Memorial Services.

However, the verse above from the lesser known hymn, *"By All Your Saints,"* also evokes that same image. We are, after all, the living, breathing saints who are still muddling our way through these in-between times marked by trials and tribulations as well as causes for joy and celebration. There is no question these are challenging times. Scary too. But there is always much for which we ought to give our God thanks and praise.

As God's people, one of the greatest gifts we have received is the gift of faith. As people of faith, our hope comes from Christ's triumphant victory over death. Let me remind you of the words of the Apostle Paul where he writes,

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his (Romans 6:4-5).

To put it succinctly, death does not have the final word! No matter what obstacles or challenges we face, no matter how grim things may seem in the world we live in—Remember: through the cross of Christ, our enemy Death has been conquered, once for all. And so, I hope you'll join me in remembering all the beloved saints who have received the fullness of God's promise—and in the meantime, I pray that God will give you grace sufficient to celebrate the joyful times, manage the difficult times, overcome the tragic times, and remain faithful in all times.

In Christ's Abiding Love,

Pastor Laurie

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN

“The king commanded all the people, ‘Keep the Passover to the LORD your God as described in this book of the covenant.’ No such Passover had been kept since the day so the judges who judged Israel, even during all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah; but in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.”

2 Kings 23:21-23

Dear family of God at Central,

The verses above are part of a longer story of a reform in the culture and place of the people of Israel in roughly 622 BC. King discovers a book of the Torah in the Temple (which from context we think is the book of Deuteronomy). He has the book read and realizes they haven't been doing everything correctly and he calls for national reform to return to their grounding as the people of God. Among the various reforms he calls for is this one. That the Passover be celebrated. 2 Kings makes the comment that no Passover had been celebrated since the time of the Judges. If true, that is more than 300 years! The last time in the Bible that there was any Passover celebration actually recorded was even further back – all the way back in Joshua 5:10 when the people were first entering the land. If 2 Kings is correct, the people stopped following the Passover celebration as commanded in Exodus 12 for a very long time. 2 Kings does not tell us why it stopped, merely that it did. 2 Kings does not condemn those who stopped it. It is not the case that every generation from the time of the Judges until Josiah was corrupt and were avoiding God's law for them. Rather, we have record of some periods of great religiosity and devotion. So what happened to the Passover?

Unfortunately, we cannot know for sure. But, I would like to posit a guess. When the people entered the land, everything changed for them. They had to figure out a government, deal with politics and infighting as well as international challenges and wars. In their religious life things were changing rapidly. They built a temple. There was new focus on daily religiosity of sacrifice and pilgrimage. They observed Sabbath and living out the societal rules of the Torah. Their daily life became busy and somehow a few things got dropped. When Josiah brings them back to this practice (among others) he is described as “turning to the Lord with all his heart, soul, and might” (2 Kings 23:25). Josiah simply reminded people of who they were – the people of God.

I reflect on this topic this month because we are in a time where things are incredibly busy and incredibly exciting. Since September we have had Sundays highlighting Stephen Ministry, Blessing of the Animals, Quilting Ministry, Campus Ministry, and coming up we will have Reformation Sunday, All Saints Day, All Saints Sunday with Requiem, Chi Rho weekend, Christ the King Sunday, and then moving directly into Advent looking forward to Christmas. We are blessed that we have so many active and alive ministries and so many new and active ways of expressing God's love to one another. But in the midst of all of those blessings, we can get busy and distracted and it is helpful to remind ourselves who we are – the people of God. When we pause and recognize who God is, we are empowered to see that it is God who is active and alive among us.

Pastor Ben

ANNUAL SOLICITATION FOR FUNDING SPECIAL PROJECTS:

CLC Endowment Fund Committee is actively soliciting proposals for funding special projects within the church which are outside of the normal budget. Acceptance of these proposals will be guided by the CLC Mission: 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. Request forms may be obtained in the Narthex, church office, at www.connecttocentral.org/about-3, or from the Endowment Committee. Your proposal must be coordinated through a committee, ministry team, council, relevant staff person, and/or a pastor.

Please have your requests delivered to the church office or to the committee by **Friday, November 10, 2023**. Endowment Fund Committee Members: Lorraine Davis, Doug Martin, Becky Shurson, Kelly Colvin-Smith, Bruce Smolnisky, Drew Haugen, and Jean Clancey (ex-officio Council Rep).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

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

The Church Council met on October 18, 2023

Treasurer's Report: See last page

Action Items:

Approved Personnel Committee's recommendation to provide eligible employees with Portico's Health Insurance Silver+ Level A Plan with option of choosing the Gold+ Plan at no additional cost to employees (this is the same as previous years; cost to congregation is virtually the same for either plan, however the Silver Plan has a higher deductible with HSA, the Gold Plan has a lower deductible with no HSA).

Moved, seconded and approved to affirm the following people as new members to be received 10-29-23: Gary and Kelly Brown, John McCarthy, and Anna Munson.

Properties Task Force: The motion to form a task force to consider future plans for use of the properties on the corner of 18th and University Street (corner lot with the Garden & Luther House) was tabled. Instead, the Council will be reaching out to all congregation members with a survey to solicit ideas the congregation may have about the desired use of these properties. That survey will be sent to the congregation in the coming month.

(Editorial Note: An adult forum led by Pastor Laurie will take place on Nov. 19 between services from 9:45am-10:45).

**CENTRAL, UNITED, EMMAUS (CUE)
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS
FROM CRYSTAL MILLER**

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.

Sunday, November 5th and 19th: Our youth group will meet from noon to 2. I would like to plan a meal at Cascade Manor with some of our older congregational members as our service activity for the month of November. Please let me know which Sunday works best for your family as soon as possible so I can make arrangements.

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.

JOIN US FOR "MIDWEEK COFFEE HOUR" in the Terrace Room from 1-2pm on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the Month (November 8th and 22nd)

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 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:

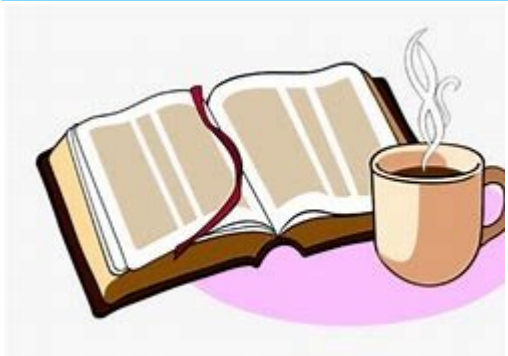
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday at First Christian Church (9-11am)
- Tuesday at St. Mary's Episcopal Church (9-11am)

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

Adult Education Hour between services (9:45-10:45).

Nov. 5: All Saints Remembrances (Library)

Nov. 12: Chi Rho Lecture (Parish Hall)

Nov. 19: Vision for Expanding Ministry/Use of Properties (Parish Hall)

Nov. 26: An Introduction to our Advent Series (Library)

TOGETHER TUESDAYS

Please join us in the Library for Adult class from 6-7:15pm!

“THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN EVERY AGE”: A CUE RETREAT AT LUTHERWOOD

Thanks to participants from Central, United, and Emmaus for engaging in our Retreat at Lutherwood on Saturday, Oct 21 — “The Church of Christ in Every Age” — for such moving and insightful conversations about what it means to be church together in *this* age.



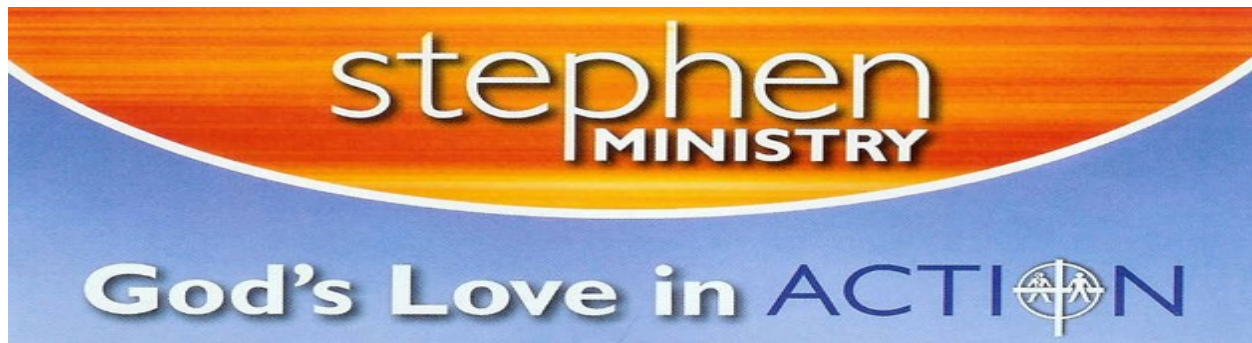
(Pictured: Deacon Clare leads conversation in the yurt)

Being faithful community in 21st-century Pacific Northwest is both distinctive challenge and invitation, and it is one that we can engage more powerfully together! We deepened our understanding of our context, shared our own stories, and dreamed new dreams.

Special thanks to Crystal for leading our children in fun and engaging play, so that their relationships can also continue to grow.; and to Andrea and the Lutherwood team for their ministry and hospitality.



(Pictured: Eva (15) from United and Maeve (7) from Central enjoy science)



A new Stephen Minister Training is set to begin at Central on Monday, January 8, 2024 and concluding in May. We are inviting our friends from United and Emmaus to join us for this extensive training.

What Is Stephen Minister Training Like?

Stephen Minister training is an engaging, interactive experience that fully equips the laity to provide high-quality, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Central's Stephen Leaders—Gretchen Simas, Dawn Susuico, and Gary Wolfe—will use presentations, discussions, readings, videos, skill practices, and spiritual growth activities to equip and empower you with practical caregiving and relational skills. In addition, the training provides many opportunities for building Christian community and experiencing personal and spiritual growth.

This is a widely-known and highly respected program. In fact, since 1975, more than 600,000 Stephen Ministers have been equipped by this training to provide care to millions of people. Stephen Ministers often say that their training was life-transforming—helping them to grow in faith and learn relationship principles and skills that deepened and enhanced all the relationships in their life. At this time we are asking *you* to prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to become a Stephen Minister.

[Click here for more information.](#)

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
presents



Requiem

by

Mozart

All Saints' Sunday,
November 5, 2023
8:30 and 11 a.m. services

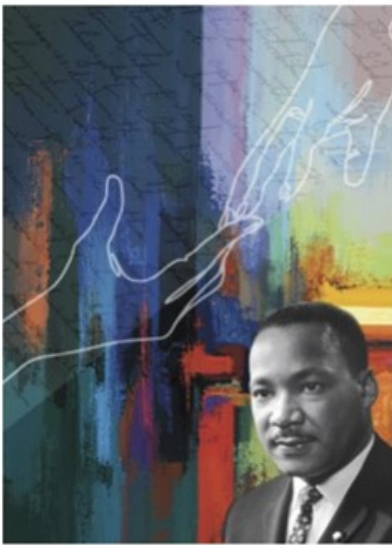
The Central Chorale with Soloists
Central Chamber Orchestra
Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook, conducting

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
welcometocentral.org
18th and Potter Street
Eugene, Oregon

Chi Rho Lectures 2023



Martin Luther King's Letter of Paul to American Christians: *Rediscovering a Neglected Classic*



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. first crafted and delivered the *Letter of Paul to American Christians* in a sermon in 1956. Our speakers reintroduce this letter, which Dr. King says he translated from Greek into English, and examine it as an extraordinary moment in the legacy of both King and Paul. Come listen, learn, and engage as they analyze the dynamics and contents of the letter that King fashioned for his moment in the civil rights movement in the 1950s and explore what it can say to Americans today.

A Weekend of Study with Rev. Dr. Shively T. J. Smith & Dr. Margaret M. Mitchell

November 10–12, 2023

Central Lutheran Church
1857 Potter St., Eugene, Oregon



Rev. Dr. Shively T. J. Smith serves as Assistant Professor of New Testament at Boston University School of Theology. She completed her PhD in New Testament Studies at Emory University. She is a scholar,

preacher, and writer whose primary research and writing focuses on the Pauline letters, diaspora studies, interpretative approaches, and African American history and the bible.

Dr. Margaret M. Mitchell is the Shailer Mathews Distinguished Service Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Her PhD is from the University of Chicago. She specializes in the Pauline letters, the development of early Christian literary and religious culture, the poetics and politics of ancient biblical interpretation, and the intersection of text, image, and artifact in early Christian culture.



Dr. Mitchell and Rev. Dr. Smith are working together on a book about Dr. King and his *Letter of Paul to American Christians*.

**Martin Luther King's Sermon:
A Newly Discovered Letter of Paul**
Friday, Nov. 10, 7:00 pm, Central Lutheran Church,
1857 Potter St., Eugene, OR

Close Readings of King's Old/New Paul
Saturday, Nov. 11, 10:00 am, Bushnell University,
Ross Evans Chapel, 1188 Kincaid, Eugene, OR

Paul, King, and a Moral Vision for America Then
Saturday, Nov. 11, 7:00 pm, Central Lutheran Church

King and Paul for America Now: Is Love Enough?
Sunday, Nov. 12, 9:45 am, Central Lutheran Church



Chi Rho Lectures are free and open to all, in person or online via livestream.
connecttocentral.org/chirholectures • info@welcometocentral.org

BOOK CLUB NEWS

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.

Looking Ahead: **The CLC Book Club** will meet via Zoom on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, at 7:00pm to discuss ***American Born Chinese*** by **Gene Luen Yang**. This "young adult" graphic novel is a read that all ages can learn from and enjoy. The book weaves the story of Jin Wang wanting to fit in and is bullied in school, the Chinese fable of the powerful Monkey King who wants to be a god, and a nasty stereotype character of Chin-kee who keeps ruining cousin Danny's life with his annual visits. These three tales converge with a twist. There is even a Christian message buried in the book. Being a graphic novel, it is quite a different format from our usual selections, and we anticipate it will be a quick(er) and enjoyable read! The discussion will be led by Arlene Dietz.



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."

JOIN US FOR "MIDWEEK COFFEE HOUR"

We gather in the Terrace Room for informal conversation, coffee & treats from 1-2pm on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the Month—This month: November 8th and 22nd.

LEADING UP TO THE CHI RHO LECTURES

Leading up to the Chi Rho Lectures, all are welcome to attend events at the conference, "Becoming the Beloved Community" at Bushnell University (828 E. 11th Ave., Eugene) Nov. 1: Screening of the film Juneteenth and discussion with the producers of the film on site at 7pm at Venue 252 and Nov. 2: Evening Lecture on "Becoming the Beloved Community" at 6pm at Venue 252. More information can be found at: [Becoming Beloved Community - Bushnell University](#).



WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Robin Babb, Karlyn Campbell, Terry Chap, Chuck Dietz, Dal & Gaye Haverland, Doug & Jody Martin, Morgan McCrory, John Piper, Marni Reinmuth, Gretchen & Jeff Simas, Merrily Sutton, the family of David Zhou; and the family & friends of Connie Rattenborg upon her death on October 16th.

We give thanks to God for the birth of Jordyn Olsson, daughter of Sierra & Ben Olsson, granddaughter of Jodie & Ike Olsson, and great-granddaughter of Sally Baumgartner. Jordyn was born on October 22nd.

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

	Jan-Sept 2023	YTD 2023 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-Sept 2022
Regular Envelopes	\$ 398,639.19	\$ 476,250.03	\$ (77,610.84)	\$ 401,158.41
Other Offerings	\$ 5,326.30	\$ 5,850.00	\$ (523.70)	\$ 4,530.74
Holiday Offerings	\$ 10,084.00	\$ 13,733.68	\$ (3,649.68)	\$ 9,154.00
Other Income	\$ 122,244.12	\$ 27,963.03	\$ 94,281.09	\$ 59,458.51
Departmental Income	\$ 103,356.29	\$ 90,005.48	\$ 13,350.81	\$ 73,288.07
Total Income	\$ 639,649.90	\$ 613,802.22	\$ 25,847.68	\$ 547,589.73
Total Expenses	\$ 673,592.75	\$ 643,671.48	\$ 29,921.27	\$ 596,486.22
YTD Net Income	\$ (33,942.85)	\$ (29,869.26)	\$ (4,073.59)	\$ (48,896.49)
Prorated carryover- Previous Year	\$ 24,806.25	\$ 24,806.25	-	\$ 28,633.50
Net after carryover applied	\$ (9,136.60)	\$ (5,063.01)	\$ (4,073.59)	\$ (20,262.99)

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
1857 POTTER STREET EUGENE 97403
541-345-0395

WEBSITE: WWW.WELCOMETOCENTRAL.ORG