

# THE CENTRALITE

May 2022



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN  
CHRIST CONGREGATION

## Central's Staff

Pastor Laurie A. Jones  
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Vicar Ben Nickodemus  
Pastoral Intern

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

Organist/Choirmaster  
Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Associate Organist  
Dr. Lindsey H. Rodgers

Parish Administrator  
Kristi Hoiland

Financial Manager  
Cindy Culpepper

Minister to Children, Youth  
& Families for CUE  
Crystal Miller

## Church Council

President, Larry Sutton  
Vice Pres, Sheri Pyron  
Secretary, Jack Bennett  
Treas, Charlotte Bontrager  
Jean Clancey  
Matt Haugen  
Chris Henry  
Jill Liedtke  
Dennis Lindsay

**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*

**SAVE THE DATE...**

**for our semi-annual congregational  
meeting on Sunday, June 5th  
(9:45am-10:45am) in the Parish Hall.**

This is an exceptionally important meeting for our congregation as the first item on our agenda will be to vote on issuing a call to Ben Nickodemus to serve as Associate Pastor of Central Lutheran (effective July 1, 2022).

Ben has been serving as a Pastoral Intern at Central since January 17, 2021, while simultaneously completing the theological education and polity requirements of the ELCA for Rostered Ministers of Word & Sacrament. At the end of May he will have successfully fulfilled these requirements and has already been pre-approved for ordination by the Oregon Synod Candidacy Committee.

According to the Constitution the vote to issue a call must be by a two-thirds majority in a written ballot (proxy votes are not permitted). The proposed compensation agreement must also be approved by the congregation and voted on separately. (Note: This was factored into the 2022 Mission & Ministry Budget we approved at our semi-annual meeting on January 30, 2022, but will need to be reaffirmed.)

The full agenda for the meeting will be available at least two weeks prior to June 5th.

Christ has died. † Christ is risen. † Christ will come again.

Dear Easter People,

There is no question in mind we are living in a complex, often confusing and scary world. Some of the problems we are facing—individually, collectively, societally, globally—may seem to us downright insurmountable to overcome. Yet, as a person of faith, I truly believe Jesus when he said, “for God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26b). As Easter people we confess our faith and trust in an incarnate, indwelling, life-giving, spirit-empowering God, who went to great lengths to redeem and reconcile us through the cross of Christ, an empty tomb, and a future filled with hope. Therefore, as Easter people, we have so much to live for, so much to look forward to, and so much for which to be thankful.

Firstly, Central Lutheran has been blessed with an amazingly rich history and a myriad of faithful saints who have gone before us. There are signs all around us of the legacy our brothers and sisters in Christ left behind and which, in turn, has been entrusted to us to faithfully steward in the present times and for generations to come.

Secondly, Central Lutheran is blessed with the gifts of those who make up this small part of Christ’s body here and now! Each of our respective God-given gifts of time, talents, and treasures are needed to carry out the mission to which God is calling us. While it is true, we are not all able to give in the same ways, nevertheless we all have something to give—from the “littles” among us to the wisdom of our elders, and every age in between. Of this I am confident, we can fully rely on God to provide the gifts needed for the sake of our shared mission. And I trust each of you to prayerfully discern the ways God is calling and leading you to share your gifts.

Finally, I am confident that by the grace of God, Central Lutheran will continue to be blessed well into the future, a future filled with hope, as our faith is passed on to those who will come after us. Always and forever to the glory of God!

In Christ’s Abiding Love,

+Pastor Laurie

*"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it."  
Psalm 24:1*

Dear Central Lutheran family,

As we ended our Lenten season and now are in the season of Easter, you might have noticed that during the second Sunday of Easter, we celebrated Earth Day Sunday (timed as such because it was the closest Sunday to Earth Day, April 22nd). The timing works out beautifully. During the Easter season we focus upon resurrection – life springing forth from death. This applies to all of Creation – both for humans and for all of creation.

In fact, one of the most important aspects of a theology of creation is that humans are part of creation. Martin Luther in his explanation to the first article of the Apostle's Creed focuses on the confession of God the creator is to confess we are creatures – part of the creation of God. We therefore see that in our Psalm above, that the earth and all of living beings belong to God who creates us. The creation is not something that only happened a long time ago, but instead, is something God is doing daily – creating and recreating us in this world as the new creation in Christ. It is our resurrection life at all times and places.

This theme, though, is not just apropos during Easter, but at all times. As such, Central will have a focus on caring for creation over the Summer as well. Each month we will have one worship service dedicated to care for creation. We had Earth Day at the end of April and we will have a variety of other services reflecting on several aspects of caring for creation. In June we will have a service on biodiversity emphasizing how we care for creation and the way creation cares for us. In July we will have a service on water – the way it can be destructive, lifegiving, and cleansing (and all three in one in Baptism). In August we will have a service dedicated to wildfires and natural disasters where we reflect on and grieve recent and current destruction of creation that seems to be coming about every year. In September we will have a service of the harvest with an opportunity to rejoice over what God has given us in abundance. Finally, we will have a service of blessing the animals in October in coordination with the commemoration of Saint Francis of Assisi. We also have been blessed with a donor funded gift specifically dedicated to putting solar panels on Christus House, a project scheduled to be completed over the summer.

We recognize, though, that while these services and projects have special emphasis on issues relating to care for creation, those are not the only places where we emphasize God's caring for creation. Every Sunday we proclaim our role as creatures of God, our Creator and in God's creation. You may, or may not, have been aware, but on Earth Day Sunday we inserted little images of leaves in the bulletin where creation care is emphasized and practically the entire bulletin was marked with these leaves. This was not just because of earth day, but to show that most of it is a part of our Lutheran liturgy each and every Sunday. As the Psalmist says, the earth is the Lord's, and we recognize we are stewards of all that is in it.

In Christ's Love,  
Vicar Ben

## CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Pictured: Mirilla Potter, Margot Potter, Charlotte Strietelmeier, Sam Rodgers, Ari Saks, Signy Smith, Maeve Josef-Maier. (Not pictured: Elise Hendriksen, Lucas Henriksen, and Lucy Ruhland). Children's Choir, under the direction of Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers, has recently resumed for children K-5th grade. This Spring rehearsals are between services on Sundays from 10:00-10:45am in the Nicki Hanson Choir Room.

### YOU ARE INVITED...

Bushnell University has graciously invited Central Lutheran members/friends to a retirement celebration in honor of Dr. Dennis Lindsay's 22 years of service and leadership to the University community.

**Thursday, May 5th**

**6:30pm – Reception**

**7:00pm – Program**

Valley River Inn  
1000 Valley River Way  
Eugene, OR 97401

If you are able to attend this event, please **RSVP by May 2nd** ([bushnell.edu/lindsay](http://bushnell.edu/lindsay) or by calling 541-684-7318).

## Laureen Nussbaum to speak at Temple Beth Israel Sunday May 1st at 4pm

Laureen is a Holocaust survivor and an Anne Frank scholar. She is a wonderful speaker and hearing her in person would be valuable for all of us. She moved from Frankfurt to Amsterdam at the age of eight, like her family friends the Franks. (Although she points out her friend was Margo, Anne's older sister). She is a living link and an amazing person.

Her recent book **Shedding Our Stars: The Story of Hans Calmeyer and How He Saved Thousands of Families Like Mine** is both engaging and informative. To find out more, here is a link to her bio: <https://www.holocaustcenterseattle.org/laureen-nussbaum> and also some information about her book which will be available for sale at the talk: <https://www.thirdplacebooks.com/event/laureen-nussbaum-shedding-our-stars>.



### BOOK CLUB NEWS

The CLC Book Club will meet via ZOOM on **Monday, May 9, 2022**, at 7:00pm to discuss **The Last Bookshop in London** by Madeline Martin. This fictional story was inspired by the true World War II history of the few bookshops to survive the Blitz. After arriving in London in 1939, Grace Bennett aspires to work in a department store. She winds up employed at Primrose Hill, an offbeat bookshop in the heart of the city. As the Blitz rains down bombs on the city night after night, a devastating attack leaves the bookshops and libraries in the city's literary center in ruins. Miraculously Grace's shop survives. Grace continues running the shop discovering a newfound comfort in the power of words and storytelling that unites her community in ways she never imagined. The discussion will be led by Sally Diehm.

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 [rb24berg@aol.com](mailto:rb24berg@aol.com). The ZOOM link will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

Looking Ahead: The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on **Monday, June 13, 2022**, at 7:00pm to discuss **Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass** by Frederick Douglass. The discussion will be led by Ginger Bopp.

## Tuesday Evening Classes with Vicar Ben

### Youth v. Gov. Conversation

First, on Tuesday, May 3, at 7pm via zoom, join Vicar Ben for a conversation following up on the viewing of the film "Youth v. Gov." This film depicts the story of the lawsuit brought by several students, some of whom are from Eugene, to sue the United States to act on climate change. The follow up conversation will be asking as a community of faith, how can we speak to this community of deeply concerned youth on this topic? If you didn't have a chance to see the film, it is available on Netflix beginning April 29. However, you do not need to have seen the film to join the conversation. Join the zoom meeting here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84768654660>

### Sea, Water, Washing, and Baptism in the Bible

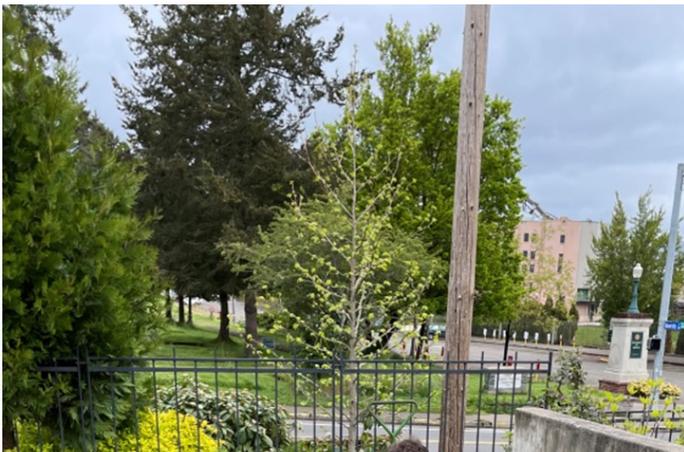
Second, Join Vicar Ben for a Tuesday evening class at 7pm "Sea, Water, Washing, and Baptism in the Bible" May 10, 17, and 24. This is a three week class via Zoom concluding Vicar Ben's internship where he will discuss different ways water is discussed in the Bible. This will relate to one of our care for creation themes this Summer by reflecting on water as a source of destruction in flooding, a source of life, and a source of cleansing. We hope to see you there!

## Highlights from the Church Council

Church Council did not meet in April to provide some R&R for leaders after Holy Week/Easter.

## BLESSING CENTRAL'S GARDEN

Our "Earth Day" Sunday celebration on April 24, included a blessing of the garden (on the corner of 18th and University). Thanks to Maija Johnson Anderson, our new point-person, for all her work in prepping and planting the garden for an abundant new crop of fruits and vegetables which will be used for our Hearth & Table meal for food-insecure students and/or given to the Student Food Pantry in partnership with the Episcopal Campus Ministry. Pictured on the right is Joseph, one of our Christus House residents. (CH students volunteer in the garden and at Hearth & Table as part of their commitment to living and serving in community.





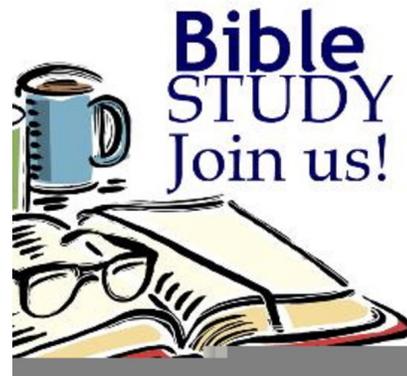
## WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Baby Michael, Lue Berg, Tracie Boring, Joshua Chamness, Terry Chap, Bonnie Betts, Linnea Embleton, Carolyn & Bob Evans, Rhea Forum, JoAnne Hynes, Joy Lathrop, Doug & Jody Martin, Christine & Dave Prescott, Marilyn Tollefson.

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

## NURTURE FAITHFUL LIVING

...by diving into the word of God



## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study meets weekly in person on **Wednesdays at 7am** at the Pancake House on Franklin Blvd. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact Chuck Dietz at [cdietz41@gmail.com](mailto:cdietz41@gmail.com).

## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join Pastor and Vicar Ben on **Wednesdays at 11am** via Zoom as we study the readings for the upcoming Sunday. No preparation needed. Click [here](#) for the Zoom link. (Note: This Bible study group will not meet on Ash Wednesday.)

## WOMEN'S PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Prayer and Bible Study meets weekly on **Thursdays at 11am** on Zoom using the Bible study guides found in the ELCA's *Gather Magazine*. For more information and to receive the Zoom link to your inbox please contact Arlene Dietz at [dietzal@aol.com](mailto:dietzal@aol.com).



# **Mass in G Major – Franz Schubert**

Sunday, May 15, 2022

8:30 & 11am services

The Central Chorale & Central Chamber Orchestra

Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook, conducting

Soloists: Leah Burién, Naomi Castro, Alyse Jamieson, Blake Balmaseda,  
Dylan Bunten, David Gustafson, Stephen Rodgers, and John Shields

## Children, Youth & Family News & Events

### Children's Music Ministry at Central

Check out [musictogether-eugene.org](http://musictogether-eugene.org) for information or to register for upcoming Music Together classes. These 10-week sessions, hosted at Central Lutheran for members and friends of Central, as well as the wider community of Eugene/Springfield, are geared for children ages 0-5 (accompanied by a parent/grandparent). Questions can be emailed to our Center Director, Lindsey H. Rodgers, by clicking [here](#).

Central's Children's Choir (for ages 6 and up) has resumed! Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings between services from 10:00am-10:45am. Families are encouraged to attend the 11am service.

### Saturday, May 15th 10am to 2pm - Earth Day Celebration

All kids are invited to a late Earth Day celebration to be held at Central Lutheran Church. We will garden together, create recycled art, play games, and do much more. Teen and adult volunteers are needed, please let me know if you can help in this way. RSVP to Crystal by Sunday, May 8th.

### Vacation Bible school Summer 2022: Christmas in July

- When: June 27th through July 1st, 9am - 12:30pm each day
  - Where: Central Lutheran Church
  - Who: Campers are all kids ages 3 years to going into 5th grade and volunteers are middle and high school teens and adults of all ages
  - Cost: We are asking for a suggested donation of \$25 per camper or \$50 per family. If you are able to give more please consider doing so to help support our ministry of making VBS available to all families. Please send your payments to Central Lutheran Church.
  - Yes we need volunteers! If you are able to volunteer in any capacity I would love to hear from you. It is our teen and adult volunteers that make camp possible.
  - To register please follow this link: : <https://forms.gle/WauCtyzZVp355Kkc6> -
- At this time our COVID policies are in flux and we will continue to follow state guidance and will update and clarify our policies closer to the start of camp.

### End of the year picnic and games on June 4<sup>th</sup>

All families are invited to picnic and carnival games on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 2pm. We will gather at United Lutheran Church and spend time playing and eating together. Families are invited to bring a picnic lunch, there will be games and activities for all ages. Please let Crystal know if you are available to help set up or can volunteer during the event for part of the time. If your family will be joining us for this event please let Crystal know by Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Central Lutheran Church**  
**Jan-Mar 2022 Compared to Jan-Mar 2021 Income:Expense Summary**

	Jan-Mar 2022	Jan-Mar 2021	Difference
Regular Envelopes	\$ 138,074.53	\$ 156,668.92	\$ (18,594.39)
Other Offerings	503.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 368.00
Holiday Offerings	380.00	\$ 1,170.00	\$ (790.00)
Other Income	5,270.60	\$ 5,124.91	\$ 145.69
Departmental Income	28,641.44	\$ 19,776.31	\$ 8,865.13
Total Income	\$ 172,869.57	\$ 182,875.14	\$ (10,005.57)
Total Expenses	\$ 205,545.50	\$ 187,774.82	\$ 17,770.68
YTD Net Income	\$ (32,675.93)	\$ (4,899.68)	\$ (27,776.25)
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 9,544.50	\$ 15,333.51	\$ (5,789.01)
Net after carryover applied	\$ (23,131.43)	\$ 10,433.83	\$ (33,565.26)



**New Phone Number**  
 Dal and Gaye Haverland  
 541-915-2885

**CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
 1857 POTTER STREET EUGENE 97403  
 541-345-0395 ~ ~ 541-345-2499(FAX)

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