

February
2024



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

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Deacon Clare Josef-Maier
clare@begoodsoil.org

Organist/Choirmaster
Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

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

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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

Our Schedule entering into the Season of Lent

Shrove Tuesday: Feb.
13, 5:15pm



Ash Wednesday: Feb.
14, services at noon and
7:30pm



**Lenten Midweek
Series (2/21-3/19):**
Journeying with God
through our wilderness



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN

Dear family of God at Central,

"Miriam Sang to them, 'Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.' Then Moses ordered Israel to set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water." Exodus 15:21-22

The people of Israel on their way out ("exodus") from Egypt, began with celebration. Miriam and all the women of Israel celebrated with tambourines and dancing, as they rightly should – they had been finally freed from 400 years of enslavement in Egypt. A new life they might not have dared envision nor even speak, saving from their cries to God (Exod. 2:23). Almost immediately after that celebration, though, on their way out, they enter into wilderness.

Wilderness in the Bible was not just a physical location of lands that were undeveloped, but instead was a concept. Wilderness was viewed as land that was not just uninhabited, but uninhabitable. It was land that they were sure could not support human life. It was a place where they could only survive for short periods of time, they would not be able to remain in one place – they would have to always be on the move searching for basic necessities as we see above, where after three days they still had not found water. It was a place of groundlessness and strife, always on a journey looking to where they were going next rather than where they were right now.

This Lent, we invite you into a journey. Our midweek Lenten series is entitled, "Journeying with God in our wilderness." As we all are on our own journey struggling to find grounding and meaning, we will be reminding ourselves that in the midst of wilderness God is with us, hears our cries, and responds to us. We will be spending time in the Exodus narrative seeing what God has revealed about who God is and who we are that speak to us in 2024 in our own wildernesses which are complicated and burdensome.

This Lent, on our Tuesday evening program we will be trying something new. We will have our soup supper at 5:15-6pm as we usually do. At 6, Music Together and Children's Choir will have classes as normal. The adult hour, though is going to be different. We will not have an "adult class" during Lent. Rather, at 6pm, we will have a Lenten Reflection on the Word of God from 6pm-6:45 which will have a ritual opening and be an interactive reflection on the Word. This will serve as our homily space for the evening – but it will be interactive and dynamic, not a sermon. Then, at 6:45, we will have Holden Evening Prayer with no homily (given that we already did that in the Reflection on the Word). It is possible, of course, to attend only one of these events, but I highly encourage you to try coming at least once to the entire experience from a simple soup supper (reminding ourselves of the simplicity of food in the wilderness) at 5:15, to the Lenten Reflection on the Word of God at 6, and then to Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45. The evening is set to take us all on a journey as we contemplate how God is with us in our own journeys in life.

I hope to see you there,

Pastor Ben

Special Christus House Coffee Hour Feb. 11

Join us between services this Sunday, Feb. 11 for a coffee hour hosted by Christus House students and the Campus Ministry Committee. Come to Christus House after 8:30 worship for refreshments and fellowship. You will be able to see what has been happening at Christus House and connect with students! Please join us!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Feb. 13 starting at 5:15pm

Join us in the Parish Hall Tuesday, Feb. 13 for a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper! This is a celebration the day before Ash Wednesday where traditionally pancakes were served to use up all the extra butter before entering the season of Lent. Join us for a joyous evening with good food, fun decorations, and wonderful fellowship!



Ash Wednesday Services Feb. 14

Join us for our Ash Wednesday service. We will be offering two services with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. They will be at noon in the Sanctuary, and at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary and via livestream. Please join us for a service of reflection, repentance, and forgiveness as we enter into the Season of Lent.

Our Lenten Midweek Series: Journeying with God through our Wilderness

Let us prepare our hearts and minds on the way to the cross and empty tomb during this Lent. Join us Tuesday evenings for a simple soup supper at 5:15 followed by a new interactive worship experience. We will begin at 6pm with mutual reflection on the Word of God, focusing upon our own experience of wilderness using Exodus 15-20 as our guide. This engagement with the Word will include the historical context of the wilderness wanderings, application to our lives, and most of all, small group conversation. Following this scriptural journey, we will conclude our evenings with Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45pm.



Schedule

Feb. 21 – Joy of freedom & the anxiety of vulnerability in the wilderness - Exod. 15:19-25

Feb. 28 – Groundlessness, despair, lament, and complaint in the wilderness - Exod. 16:1-3

Mar. 5 – Theology of need rather than abundance in wilderness - Exod. 16:4-12

Mar. 12 – Sabbath in the Wilderness – gift and challenge - Exod. 16:22-30

Mar. 19 – Caring for others in the wilderness - Exod. 20:1-17

OTHER OPPORTUNITES TO STUDY THE WORD...

Sunday morning Education Hour with Pastor Ben between services (9:45-10:45am) in the Library

Pastor's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 11am where we study the gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday.

The Women's Bible Study group continues to meet via Zoom on Thursday mornings at 11am.

The link for either of these groups is provided in "Central's Weekly Events" or by contacting Kristi (info@welcometocentral.org).

Corner Property Survey

The Church Council is asking for feedback and ideas of future plans for the properties on the corner of 18th and University, most notably the Garden lot, Luther House, and Anderson House. Some of these properties are in poor shape and something will have to be done with them. Before bringing an action plan to the congregation, the council wants to hear from you. What do you think this action might be? All ideas are on the table. All who have ideas are encouraged to click [here](#) and fill out the online form.

If you are unable to use the online form, you can also submit your ideas via email to info@welcometocentral.org.

Thank you all for your feedback as we consider various ways we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in the years to come!





BOOK CLUB NEWS

The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 7:00pm to discuss Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See. Born into an elite family at the beginning of the 15th century Ming Dynasty, Tan Yunzian is taught medicine by her grandmother, one of a handful of female doctors in all of China. An underlying theme is not only how she worked within the system controlled by her mother-in-law and men, but also succeeded in becoming proficient in medicine. One learns about the difficulty of befriending outside your class, practicing an art controlled by men, and the fascinating and painful foot binding process. The discussion will be led by Arlene Dietz.

Looking Ahead: The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 7:00pm to discuss Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. When research chemist Elizabeth Zott finds herself the host of a television cooking show, her unusual approach to cooking proves revolutionary in more ways than just challenging the status quo. As her following grows, not everyone is happy. After all, it's 1960s California and there are certain things that women just don't do. Like science, life is unpredictable! The discussion will be led by Gary Wolfe.

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

Dan Bates, Terry Chap, Chuck Dietz, Dal & Gaye Haverland, Doug & Jody Martin, Morgan McCrory, Gretchen & Jeff Simas, and David Zhou's family in China.

Prayers of comfort and support for the family of Mary Harwood and Dick Sanders upon their deaths.

Click here to submit a prayer request. Or, email: prayers@welcometocentral.org.

Concordia Choir Concert Mar. 10



Front Premium Seating \$35 per person
Rear General Admission \$25 per person
Checks payable to Concordia College
Student General Admission Free

Tickets can be purchased online [here](http://www.theconcordiachoir.org) (www.theconcordiachoir.org)
Or Central has some physical tickets that can be purchased between services or through church office



JOIN US FOR "MIDWEEK COFFEE HOUR"
on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays
of the month—February 28th
from 1:00-2:00pm
in the Terrace Room
(we won't have it on Feb. 14th due to Ash
Wednesday)

A Message from the New Evangelism Ministry Team

Members of Central:

Do you remember during the January 21st service when Pastor Ben quoted from Mark 1 :14-20 "and Jesus said to them: follow me and I will make you fish for people?"

Or, the February 4th service with the Chorale led by the inspiring voice of Siri Vik when they shared "I've Got Good News!"

Recently Pastor Laurie reminding us that we are the hands and feet of Jesus and an important fact acknowledged by Pastor Ben's sermon on Feb. 4 that we must add our ears and voices in sharing Jesus' message.

I consider these truths as I look over the many empty pews in Central. I remind myself that we have good news. I acknowledge that we are the hands and feet of Jesus. I agree that our ears and voices can be real contributors to sharing those empty pews with those who are waiting to be invited.

This gives rise to the opportunity we have as we follow Jesus.

This leads us to the development of a Central Lutheran Church Evangelism Ministry Team. A team indicates a group of individuals working for success and results.

Most of our meetings will be via ZOOM. We need your input - involvement and willingness to help in our team's effort to fish for people! We need you!

Please respond by signing the following response:

I am willing to work with the team in developing a program that will make us effective in sharing Jesus with others and help to develop a welcoming program for Central.

Can we count on you?

Larry Campbell, Team leader
Larry@victorygrp.com
503 510-4457 cell

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS—Your Help is needed

Soup providers are needed for our Soup Suppers on Together Tuesdays during Lent (February 20, February 27, March 5, March 12, March 19). The meal is served between 5:15-6pm. Please fill out this form and email Kristi at info@welcometocentral.org. Thank you.

Name_____

Date you can bring soup_____

Phone number_____

Email address_____

Meat_____

Vegetarian_____



Address change

Please make these changes in your Directory:

Bill & Delores Lewis
3535 Game Farm Rd #312
Springfield OR 97477

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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