

November
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

Pastor Laurie A. Jones
pastorlaurie@welcometocentral.org

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
crystal@unitedlutheran.org

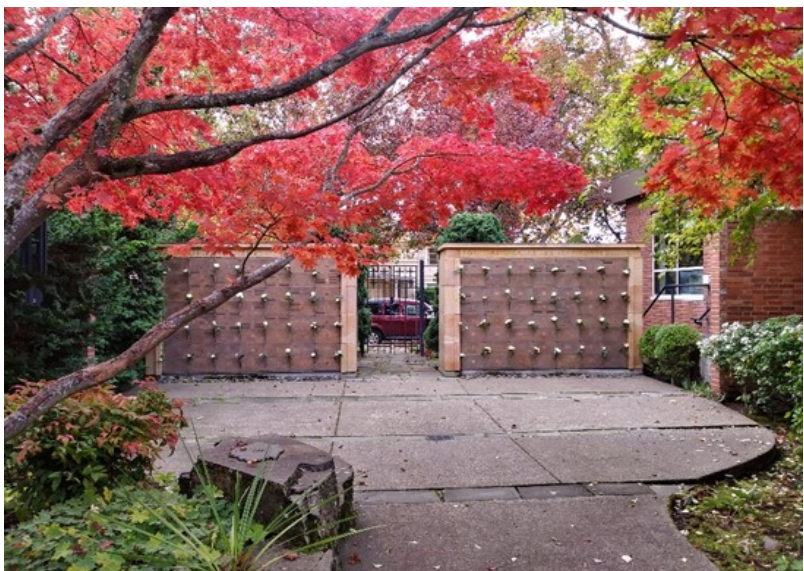
United & Central Seminary Intern
Vicar Ian Hamilton
vicar.ian@unitedlutheran.org

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Debbie Knebel
Vice President: Jean Clancey
Secretary: Jack Bennett
Treasurer: Brent Moeller
Dan Buckwalter
Terie Gillis
Matt Hougland
Howard Kallinen
Sue Kilber
Todd Shorack
Chuck Swenson

**All Saints Day
Service of Remembrance
Friday, November 1st at 5pm
Memorial Courtyard & Columbarium**

Once again, to commemorate All Saints Day, we will gather in the Memorial 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 A: rain or shine—outside; Plan B: heavy rain—move to the chapel)**



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE

Bridge from the past, in the present, and to the future!

"We are Christ's Church together!"

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have fond memories of when I was a child in Sunday school. I remember singing:

*I am the church.
You are the church.
We are the church together.
All who follow Jesus, all around the world,
Yes, we're the Church together.*

I've always liked that simple little ditty, in part because it reminds me of all of the people in my life who passed on the faith to me—from my parents to Sunday school teachers and youth leaders, to pastors and seminary professors. These were flesh and blood living saints who not only taught me, but also showed me God's grace and mercy, God's love and forgiveness. They were the ones who instilled in me a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation for all of God's abundant blessings. These are the saints who, by their own faithful witness and example taught me that Stewardship is everything we do after we say, "I Believe..."

Many of these saints from my past have gone on to receive the fullness of God's promises. I think of them often and I am reminded of the gift each one was to me. You know what they all had in common? They were, and still are, the church—the saints in heaven and on earth who make up the body of Christ. Throughout each of the stages of my life thus far, Christ's body, the church has served as a bridge from the past, in the present, and to the future. And for that I am truly grateful.

You see, I believe we truly are the church together. Here in this place we call Central Lutheran Church where generations before us have gathered and where generations still gather together 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. Here in this present time, whenever we gather together to worship and praise God, and whenever we give of ourselves, our time, and our possessions we are church together. Here in this place where the waters of baptism continue to wash over us and where God truly is present in, with, and under the bread and the wine—Christ's own body—given and shed for you and for me, and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Yes, we're the church together! And to that I say a resounding, "Thanks be to God!"

In Christ's Abiding Love,

Pastor Laurie

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN

"And [Abram] believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness."
Gen. 15:6

Dear family of God at Central,

This month, amidst all that is going on at Central, I'd like to highlight some opportunities for Adult Parish Education coming to you.

Many of you were able to attend (either in person or joining from home via the livestream) the Chi Rho Lectures, "'I Believe, Help My Unbelief:' (Re-)Discovering Faith in Moments of Crisis" by Rev. Dr. Dennis Lindsay a few weeks ago. In it, Dr. Lindsay urged us to think carefully about what we think about "faith" and "belief" and argued that a Biblical understanding of faith can be very helpful in the face of so much doubt and unbelief (and that these are not the same thing!).

One of Dr. Lindsay's major points was that a Biblical understanding of faith was an active engagement with God, and not belief "in" particular propositions – for example you see the passage from Genesis above where Abram (later to be renamed Abraham) believed the Lord. It is worthy of note that Abram believes the Lord, not things about the Lord. It is a term of relationship and engagement rather than one doctrine over another. To be sure, there still is room for good teaching and understanding about God, but when we look to the core of faith itself, it might be something else. We all have been charged to believe God as actively engaged with God. This was just one insight from the Chi Rho Lectures. It was a deep weekend that came at us very quickly. I'd like to invite you to spend time engaging with the Lectures more deeply. Our Tuesday night Adult Education series will be spent watching short portions of the Chi Rho Lectures, then having the majority of the time to break down some of what was said, and most notably, apply it to our own faith lives. Please join us!

Additionally, in Parish Education, our Sunday Morning Series beginning November 10 will be surrounding the hymns we sing during the season of Advent and Christmas. We will be spending the month of November on Sunday mornings preparing ourselves for the Advent and Christmas seasons to come!

I encourage all who can to attend.

In Christ,
Pastor Ben

FROM THE DESK OF VICAR IAN HAMILTON

Greetings!

It is crazy to announce this, but it's already been two months of being in Eugene! Time appears to be flying by as we transition into shorter days and colder temperatures. In this newsletter article, I intend on sharing with you my goals for this internship, and provide a little snippet of my life so far in Eugene! Here are the six goals I have determined for my internship year.

- Grow in my understanding of liturgical development
- Grow in my understanding of digital media's role in church life
- Learn how to preach a sermon without a manuscript
- Learn how to run an effective stewardship campaign
- Generate a clearer understanding for how to approach evangelism
- Create a strong work/life balance

I have enjoyed getting to know some of you in the early days of my internship, but there are many of you that I am still getting to know. I would like to provide an opportunity to get to know some of you better, so I will be hosting two "Walks with the Intern." These will be held at 10am on November 9 and 16 at Pre's Trail in Alton Baker Park. Meet at the parking lot by the trailhead, and make sure to bring proper outerwear as this event is rain or shine! I love to walk and be outdoors, and I hope that we can share in conversation while enjoying God's beautiful creation. I have preached two sermons at United so far, and look forward to additional opportunities.

Life has been good so far, and we have enjoyed the warm welcomes and getting to know each other.

Blessings,
Vicar Ian

CUE MS/HS YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE:

Our Youth Group is growing and we are expanding our programming to better meet the needs of our Youth. Our schedule this fall is as follows:

High School Youth Group (grades 9-12) will meet on the 2nd Sunday.
November 10th, December 8th

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6-8) will meet on the 3rd Sunday.
November 17th, December 15th

Combined Youth Group (Grades 6-12) will meet on the 4th Sunday.
November 24th

PLAN TO JOIN CENTRAL, UNITED, & EMMAUS FOR NOON-TIME WORSHIP TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH ALL ARE WELCOME!

centering prayer

ON ELECTION DAY

Join members and friends of Emmaus, United, and Central Lutheran Churches in the Emmaus sanctuary on Tuesday, November 5th at 12 noon for centering prayer:

simple songs, prayer, readings,
and contemplative silence
to calm
and strengthen
our hearts

THE PRAYER MINISTRY LENDING LIBRARY

The Prayer Ministry Lending Library cart located in the Narthex is filled with books to enhance your prayer life. There are a range of books from short reads to somewhat longer ones. Check out the cart, read a book, return it, or pass it along to a friend. Here is information on one of the books:

Hearing God by Dallas Willard

Being close to God means communicating with God—telling God what is on our hearts in prayer *and* hearing, and understanding what God is saying to us. But how do we hear God's voice? How can we be sure that what we think we hear is not our own subconscious? What role does the Bible play? What if what God says to us is not clear? The key, says bestselling author Dallas Willard, is to focus not so much on individual actions and decisions as on building our personal relationship with our Creator. In this beloved classic, which now includes a foreword by James Bryan Smith, you'll gain rich spiritual insight into how we can hear God's voice clearly and develop an intimate partnership with God in the work of God's kingdom.



WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Gwen Acker, Clarine Bremer, Richard Catlin, Terry Chap, Marcy Colvin, Eric Elwood, Mitch Hammerstad, Gayle Henry, Taylor Irons, Doug & Jody Martin, Marni Reinmuth, Jeff Simas, Roger Smith, Shirley Watson, Steve Wildish, and Greg Young.

Please continue to keep Norma and the family & friends of Dennis Vettrus in your prayers. A Memorial service for Dennis will be held on Sunday, November 10th at 2pm with reception following.

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

Individual Prayers are available from a Prayer Minister on the 1st Sunday of the month in the chapel following the 8:30am worship service.

Bible Study



Wednesday Men's Bible Study at 8am at the Springs (1282 Goodpasture Island Rd)

A group of men gather each week at the Springs for Bible study, breakfast, and fellowship. Contact Gary Wolfe (541-505-6380) if you'd like more information.

Pastor's Bible Study Wednesdays at 11am via Zoom

All are welcome to join Pastor Ben or Pastor Laurie on Zoom for a Bible study using the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday. The lessons and a zoom link are sent out to those who wish to participate. If you'd like to be included in the email please contact one of the pastors.

Thursday Women's Bible Study at 11am is now a hybrid meeting!

A group of us are meeting in person in the Church Library with the option of continuing to join on Zoom. Pastor Ben is helping us to make adjustments to the technology to make this an inclusive meeting for all participants. Please join us in person at 11am in the Library or follow the link that is sent out via email in "This Week's Events at Central." If you have any questions contact Sally Diehm at 541-852-0007.

Adult Education Classes

Grab a cup of coffee in the Narthex and then join us between services on Sundays from 9:45-10:45am in the Library and/or enjoy a meal served between 5:15-6pm on Together Tuesdays and then gather for a lively adult education class from 6-7pm in the Library.

Serving those in need...

Interfaith Food Hub is Looking for Volunteers

Spend a few hours a week making sandwiches for our unhoused neighbors on Wednesdays at First Christian Church downtown. Click the link for more info: <https://signup.com/go/ErFTQVP>

BOOK CLUB NEWS



The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, Nov. 11, 2024, at 7:00pm to discuss *Crossing the Plains with Bruno* by Annick Smith. Annick Smith has written a memoir of a road trip to visit her 97-year-old mother in Chicago. She drives with her dog Bruno from her home outside of Missoula, MT, across the Plains, to Chicago, and then to their family cabin in Sawyer on the east coast of Lake Michigan. She writes about the small towns she drives through, Chicago, and the family cabin in Michigan. She writes of her family history in eastern Europe before WWII and their move to Paris and eventually to the US. She writes of western history and her connection to the land, to her family, and to her dog Bruno. The discussion will be led by Elizabeth Uhlig.

Looking Ahead: The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, Dec. 9, 2024, at 7:00pm to discuss *Christmas by the Book* by Anne Marie Ryan. In small-town England, two booksellers, husband and wife, facing tough times decide to spread some Christmas cheer through the magic of anonymous book deliveries in this uplifting holiday tale. As the town prepares for a white Christmas, the books begin to give the recipients hope, one by one. But with the future of the bookshop still up in the air, they will need a Christmas miracle -- or perhaps a little help from the people whose lives they've touched -- to find a happy ending of their own. 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."

REMINDER:

If you are not currently receiving "Central's Weekly Events" email in your inbox, let the church office know (info@welcometocentral.org) and we'll make sure you are added to Central's listserv.



**JOIN US FOR
"MIDWEEK COFFEE HOUR"**
on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
of the month
November 13th & 27th

THANKS FROM OUR QUILTERS



The quilters would like to **THANK** the congregation for your generous support of our ministry again this year. We have been blessed with wonderful materials to carry out our projects. We've set a new higher goal for the coming year and already have made a good start. We also very much appreciated all the kind words on quilt Sunday. We get much joy from our work and love sharing it with you!

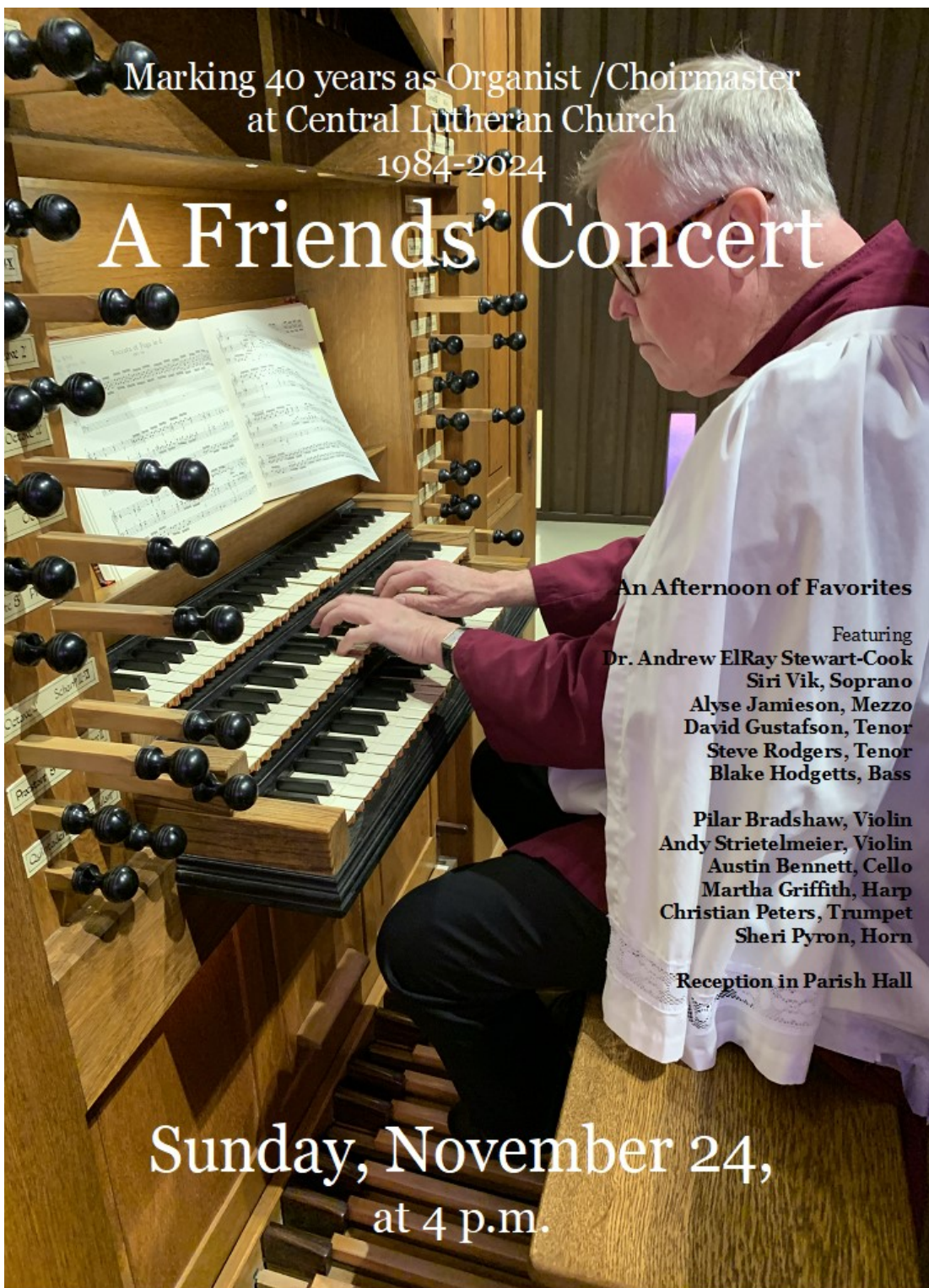
A MESSAGE FROM CAMP LUTHERWOOD

Incredible news! A generous member of our congregation has offered a special gift of \$25,000 to Camp Lutherwood Oregon's campaign to build the retreat lodge if we can reach our goal of having 50 households complete a pledge of any amount to Lutherwood's Capital Campaign! On November 3rd you will be invited to affirm your engagement in Central's mission and ministry as well as your statement of intent for a one-time gift and/or a pledge over time to Camp Lutherwood Oregon. Please prayerfully consider participating so that we might build the much-needed retreat Lodge at Camp Lutherwood Oregon!

HELP FEED THE FISH BOX

During worship on Sunday, November 17th we will be collecting non-perishable food items for Friends In Service to Humanity (FISH). Please consider donating non-perishable food items (e.g. soup, chili, tuna, peanut butter, mac & cheese, rice, canned fruits & vegetables) to help our hungry neighbors. FYI: FISH is staffed exclusively by volunteers. If you'd like to find out how you can help, contact Steve & Norma Edman (normaedman@yahoo.com).





Marking 40 years as Organist /Choirmaster
at Central Lutheran Church
1984-2024

A Friends' Concert

An Afternoon of Favorites

Featuring

Dr. Andrew ElRay Stewart-Cook

Siri Vik, Soprano

Alyse Jamieson, Mezzo

David Gustafson, Tenor

Steve Rodgers, Tenor

Blake Hodgetts, Bass

Pilar Bradshaw, Violin

Andy Strietelmeier, Violin

Austin Bennett, Cello

Martha Griffith, Harp

Christian Peters, Trumpet

Sheri Pyron, Horn

Reception in Parish Hall

Sunday, November 24,
at 4 p.m.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

welcometocentral.org

18th & Potter Street

Eugene, Oregon

Highlights from Church Council

The Council Highlights show all action items of the Church Council, but not discussion items. Full Church Council Minutes are available upon request at info@welcometocentral.org)

The Church Council met on Sept. 18, 2024

Treasurer's Report: (see last page)

Action Items:

HVAC Contract: Council approved the recommendation from the Property Committee to sign a contract with Mike's Heating and Air to maintain CLC HVAC systems for \$7,150. This results in over \$10,000 in savings from Central's previous HVAC contract.

New President: New Council President, Debra Knebel will be added to the Oregon Secretary of State Corporate Division 2024 Annual Report, and outgoing Council President, Jean Clancey will be removed.

Columbarium Management: Chuck Swenson will assume managerial responsibility for the Columbarium, with the title of Manager of the CLC Columbarium. The council thanked Joanne Miksis who previously served in this capacity for many years.

A New World of Evangelism: Highlights from our Digital Outreach!

One of the new ways we do Evangelism in 2024 is through our digital outreach. Did you know that Central has a youtube.com channel? On it, Pastor Ben posts some devotional and teaching materials, the sermons, and all special music we have in worship. You can check out our YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/@centrallutheranchurch-euge165>

Our outreach is working! Some of our videos get a lot of views. In the last month, our most popular one was ElRay's prelude on Sept. 29 playing Handel's "Aria from Xerxes." It got over 300 views!



Way to go, ElRay!

Central Lutheran Church

Jan-Sept 2024 Income:Expense to Budget - Jan-Sept 2023 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-Sept 24	YTD 2024 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-Sept 2023
Regular Envelopes	\$ 421,718.26	\$ 461,000.00	\$ (39,281.74)	\$ 398,639.19
Other Offerings	\$ 5,054.00	\$ 5,850.00	\$ (796.00)	\$ 5,326.30
Holiday Offerings	\$ 4,680.00	\$ 7,300.00	\$ (2,620.00)	\$ 10,084.00
Other Income	\$ 41,567.21	\$ 22,072.97	\$ 19,494.24	\$ 122,244.12
Departmental Income	\$ 152,923.56	\$ 115,172.07	\$ 37,751.49	\$ 103,356.29
Total Income	\$ 625,943.03	\$ 611,395.04	\$ 14,547.99	\$ 639,649.90
Total Expenses	\$ 710,901.85	\$ 689,915.27	\$ 20,986.58	\$ 673,592.96
YTD Net Income	\$ (84,958.82)	\$ (78,520.23)	\$ (6,438.59)	\$ (33,943.06)
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 42,715.53	\$ 42,715.53	-	\$ 24,806.25
Net after carryover applied	\$ (42,243.29)	\$ (35,804.70)	\$ (6,438.59)	\$ (9,136.81)

Address changes

Please make these changes in your Directory



John & Marcia Jarrett
1282 Goodpasture Isl Rd #326
Eugene 97401

New telephone:
Terry Chap 458-250-1530

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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