

April  
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*

**CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!**

**CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

We gather in worship to give God our thanks and praise through word, song, and prayer. We come to hear the word of God and to share in our Lord's Supper. And we are sent out into the world in peace to share the good news:

**CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!**

**CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

### 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  
Todd Shorack

### Church Council

President, Jean Clancey  
Vice Pres, Debbie Knebel  
Secretary, Jack Bennett  
Treasurer, Brent Moeller  
Teri Gillis  
Matt Haugen  
Howard Kallinen  
Jill Liedtke  
Todd Shorack  
Chuck Swenson



(You can see more pictures from our Easter Festival Worship on p. 8 courtesy of Todd Shorack)

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LAURIE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I'm so grateful our Church celebrates a Season of Easter and not just a day—forty days from Easter Sunday until Ascension, fifty days until Pentecost—an entire season to give thanks and praise to God for the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And not just a season, but every Sunday of every season, as we gather in worship to celebrate a “mini-Easter,” proclaiming through the mystery of faith, “Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.”

Throughout the season of Lent and Holy Week, leading up to the Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord, and now through the season of Easter, there are so many people who made this year's journey and celebration meaningful for so many members and friends of Central. From the Chorale and Cantors, to the Children's Choir and Junior Cantors, to the Handbell and Brass Ensembles, to instrumentalists and soloists, each person sharing their God-given gifts to enrich our worship life and our life together. There are so many who deserve to be mentioned, yet far too many to name.

There are the greeters, ushers, crucifers, acolytes, torch bearers, lectors, communion servers, people who set up for communion and clean up afterwards, and those who bring communion to those unable to be with us in person. There are those who make the coffee, provide treats for coffee hour, provide soup and prepare the meal for Together Tuesdays. There are those who lock and unlock the doors and who tidy up before, between, and after worship services. There are those who provide flowers to adorn our chancel and Central's Columbarium in the Memorial Courtyard. There are the people who spruce up the grounds, clean the facility from top to bottom, and tend to the ongoing needs and repairs of our properties. There's the person at the helm of the livestream each week and the ones who post the audio and other podcasts online. There are the people who prepare and print the bulletins, order supplies, count, record, and deposit the offerings, pay the bills, and keep Central Lutheran humming along.

Some of these are paid staff, but many are not. Yet, all of these people deserve a word of thanks.

So, on behalf of myself, Pastor Ben, and the rest of the staff: Thank you! Thank you for your contributions—the gift of yourself, your time, and your treasures—all of which are signs of God's gracious and abundant love present among us. Thanks be to God!

In Christ's Loving Service,

Pastor Laurie

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BEN

Dear members and friends of Central,

Our God is a God of resurrection and new life! During this Easter season, when we celebrate the joy and wonders of the ways in which God continually brings forth life into the world, I specifically give thanks for the new life that has joined our family this Eastertide. Isaac Nickodemus was born April 6 and I, with the rest of my family rejoice in this new life.

I also want to let all of you know that with the birth of Isaac as my family welcomes this new addition, I will be taking some Parental Leave. This will be a time for my family to welcome this new life and become accustomed to the new creation within our home. I want to thank you all for this time and a special thanks to Central's staff – especially Pastor Laurie and Deacon Clare who will be covering many of the things I regularly do in my absence.

While I will be away, I wanted to let you know of a few different aspects of things that will be happening with respect to Parish Education in my absence. Our Sunday morning Adult Education hour throughout the rest of the program year will be centered around music. Susan and Ray Wade will be leading a series on Hymnody and Sacred Music with the only interruption on 4/28 when ElRay will be leading a conversation on the Mass that the Chorale will be singing in worship on 5/5. This educational series on Sacred Music will be a wonderful time not only to appreciate the music we sing further, but an opportunity for deep devotional reflection on who God is and how God works through the gift of music in our lives – you won't want to miss it!

The Together Tuesday adult class will be focused around a book study. The book, by Andrew Root and Blair D. Bertrand, is *When Church Stops Working: A Future for Your Congregation beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation*. This book is about what has happened to churches in America in the 21st century who seem to be in decline, how to faithfully respond, and how we reenact our mission as people of faith. The goal of the book is not an academic study, but a practical conversation about some of these very important topics. I invite all to come to the study and different laypeople will take turns leading conversations of chapters of the book with some guided questions. The books will be provided by the church. Please join us!

Finally, I want to let you know I will continue doing a few things for the church during my leave (largely things I can do from home). My "Theology Bits" educational videos and "Two Minutes Together" devotional videos will continue (many of which were recorded ahead of time), and I will continue to excerpt out the weekly sermons and special music and post them on Central's YouTube channel & Facebook page. God bless all of you as we all see new creation and new life in our various contexts.

Pastor Ben, Holly, Iris, and Isaac

## CENTRAL'S COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who stepped forward to steward a plot or two in Central's Community Garden. If you are interested in assisting this spring/summer in the upkeep, planting, and harvesting of the garden, please contact the church office and we can put you in touch with those who have staked out a plot.

### JOIN US FOR "MIDWEEK COFFEE HOUR"

on the 2nd Wednesday  
of the month  
April 10 & 24 from 1:00-2:00pm  
in the Terrace Room



### OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY THE WORD...

- ✦ Sunday morning Education Hour between services (9:45-10:45am) in the Library with Susan & Ray Wade on sacred music, hymnody, and more.
- ✦ Men's Bible Study meets in person for breakfast at the Springs (1282 Goodpasture Island Rd.) on Wednesdays at 8:00am.
- ✦ Pastor's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 11am to 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 Zoom links are provided in "Central's Weekly Events" or by contacting Kristi ([info@welcometocentral.org](mailto:info@welcometocentral.org)).

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 7:00pm to discuss "Luke the Lakota: Spirits Across Space and Time" by nirtog (Dan Moore). Transported to the 21st Century, Luke, the gospel writer, narrates an unexpected mission, having been sent by the Holy Spirit to help a young Lakota man.



Čhaŋté is on a vision quest in the Black Hills of South Dakota and does not expect to be met by a flesh and blood guide from ancient times. As Luke accepts this role and provides spiritual wisdom, he also learns about and affirms Lakota spirituality. He must also over-come disorientation as he confronts a world two thousand years ahead his time. Čhaŋté tells Luke about many events, good and bad, since Jesus walked the earth, including Lakota history. Luke is able to provide some consolation, and together they confront the most difficult spiritual questions facing humankind. As he learns about Luke, and tells Luke about the holy man, Black Elk, Čhaŋté begins to see great similarities between the two men. The dominant culture surrounding the Lakota reservations, however, is in turmoil. Americans are feeling more and more mistrustful of each other, and dividing themselves into tribes that sometimes see others as mortal enemies. Surely, this situation will not intrude upon the personal relationship between Čhaŋté and Luke! The discussion will be led by Karie Shorack.

Looking Ahead: The CLC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 7:00pm to discuss "Our Missing Hearts" by Celeste Ng. Published in 2022, this novel is a reaction to the fears and racism in America following the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion will be led by Sally Diehm.

## WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS



Gerald Chadburn, Terry Chap, Lehua DeLong (granddaughter of Eunice & Ron Fenchak), Chuck Dietz, Rhea Forum (sister of Alice Rotchstein), Dal & Gaye Haverland, Doug & Jody Martin, Morgan McCrory, Joanne Miksis, Megan Scott, Gretchen & Jeff Simas, Jeff Wade, Carol Welch, and Lisa (sister-in-law of Lori Lund).

[Click here](#) to submit a prayer request.

Or, email: [prayers@welcometocentral.org](mailto:prayers@welcometocentral.org).



# WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS...



**Craig Berg**



**Paul & Stephanie Riess**



**Ben Brown**



**Dan Tichenor & Elaine Replogle**



**John Buzis**

**Romero, left; Skylar, right**



**Dan Rinnan**



**Jack McGaughey**



**Amy & Chris Solinsky**

**Easton, left; Ayla, center; Archer, right**

## JOINING OUR CENTRAL FAMILY ON PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

**Craig Berg**, 541-543-8581  
87911 Territorial Rd Spc. 48 Veneta, OR 97487  
craigberg86@gmail.com

**Ben Brown & \*Mary Sue**, 214-930-6394  
215 Rockridge Loop Eugene 97405  
benjmbrown@gmail.com

**John Buzis**, 541-286-0000  
johnnydolomight@yahoo.com  
Skylar, Romero

**Heidi Harless & \*Cooper (not pictured)**, 541-704-8480  
heidileharless@gmail.com  
Bergen

**Jack McGaughey**, 541-914-7655  
2590 Chula Vista Blvd Eugene 97405  
jackmccaughey7655@gmail.com.

**Lola Mitchell (not pictured)**  
2951 Coburg Rd. Eugene 97408

**Elaine Replogle & Dan Tichenor**  
2875 Martinque Ave Eugene 97408  
Elaine: 541-554-6785 replogle@uoregon.edu  
Dan: 541-554-8226 tichenor@uoregon.edu

**Paul & Stephanie Riess**  
3640 Meadow View Dr Eugene 97408  
Paul: 541-543-1382 paulriess@ymail.com  
Stephanie: 541-543-5500 stephanie\_riess@yahoo.com

**Dan Rinnan & \*Allison Conner**, 541-514-2833  
4820 Garnet St Eugene 97405  
otaava@gmail.com

**Chris & Amy Solinsky**  
3044 Powder River Dr Eugene 97408  
Ayla, Archer, Easton  
Chris: 608-516-8044 casolinsky@gmail.com  
Amy: 847-309-1882 amdahlin@gmail.com

(Please add contacts to your church directory; \*indicates non-member spouse)



## EASTER WORSHIP AT CENTRAL CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!







## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

With joy and thanksgiving to God we celebrate with Pastor Ben & Holly and big sister, Iris, the arrival of Isaac Goodrich Nickodemus who made his debut on Saturday, April 6th at 10am, weighing in at 8lbs 3oz!



## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 24th-28th from 9:00am-12:30pm

VBS for children and friends of Central, United, and Emmaus (CUE) families will once again be hosted at Central Lutheran. Our theme is Superheroes of the Bible and we will be learning about different people in the Bible who demonstrated Superhero qualities. Our daily themes will be courage, wisdom, forgiveness, faith, and love.

We still need to fill several volunteer positions (teens and adults!) so please consider if you are able to support this ministry this year. Ways you can volunteer include:

Running a station - Music, Crafts, Story or Games (the time commitment for this ranges from 1-2.5 hrs. each day depending on the station you are leading)

Leading a small group (Pre-K; Kindergarten/1st grade; or 2nd/3rd grade; I will be leading the 4th/5th graders (the time commitment for this is from 8:30 to 1pm each day)

Preparing snack and daily check-in (the time commitment for this is about 1.5 hrs. each day)

Leading closing Worship (this is the last 30 minutes of each day)

If you or your teen is available to volunteer for this summer's VBS program, please register at the link below and I will be in contact with you soon re: training dates.

To register for VBS, please go to this link: <https://forms.gle/p5eqJdmEeQjVEUck6>

To volunteer, please register at this link: <https://forms.gle/tnPA4j6j62UrAWEs9>

Crystal Miller  
CUE Youth and Family Ministries  
503-320-4055

**Two Upcoming Events  
for Central, United, and Emmaus (CUE)  
Sunday, April 21st and Saturday, April 27th**

**All are welcome to join us as we celebrate  
Faith Climate Action Week  
with a film screening of "Common Ground"  
April 21, 2024  
6:30pm**

**(Hosted at Central Lutheran in the Parish Hall)**



"Common Ground" is a new film about how regenerating the world's soils has the potential to rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. This film explains why transitioning to regenerative agriculture could be key in rehabilitating the planet, while simultaneously invigorating a new sense of hope and inspiration in viewers. If you liked "Kiss the Ground", you will love "Common Ground." Film screening made possible by Interfaith Power & Light and Central's Caring for Creation Ministry Team.

# SEEKING A BETTER END



## A seminar on how to plan for a better end-of-life experience

With Gretchen Brauer-Rieke, RN, MSN  
Certified Advance Care Planning Facilitator

End-of-life decisions can be challenging, but with knowledge, support, and motivation, they can become a fulfilling exercise when made in advance.

Come and learn how to:

- Discern your own personal wishes for end-of-life healthcare
- Document - in detail - those wishes, using Advance Directive and POLST
- Discuss your wishes with family, loved ones, and healthcare providers so that they are on your team when the time comes
- Delve into helpful resources that will support your decisions

**Saturday, April 27 – 9:00 am - 12:00 noon**

**Emmaus Lutheran Church**

**1250 W 18<sup>th</sup> Ave, Eugene**

Check in at 8:45— coffee/tea and treats provided  
Freewill offerings accepted to cover expenses





## Central Lutheran Church

### Jan-Feb 2024 Income:Expense to Budget - Jan-Feb 2023 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-Feb 24	YTD 2024 Budget	Variance to Budget	Jan-Feb 2023
Regular Envelopes	\$ 118,246.21	\$ 99,000.00	\$ 19,246.21	\$ 124,956.37
Other Offerings	\$ 950.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ (350.00)	\$ 649.30
Holiday Offerings	\$ 361.00	\$ 800.00	\$ (439.00)	\$ 570.00
Other Income	\$ 16,407.21	\$ 4,943.90	\$ 11,463.31	\$ 4,389.51
Departmental Income	\$ 24,304.58	\$ 27,641.92	\$ (3,337.34)	\$ 9,857.25
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 160,269.00</b>	<b>\$ 133,685.82</b>	<b>\$ 26,583.18</b>	<b>\$ 140,422.43</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 165,734.49</b>	<b>\$ 160,117.59</b>	<b>\$ 5,616.90</b>	<b>\$ 170,410.92</b>
<b>YTD Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (5,465.49)</b>	<b>\$ (26,431.77)</b>	<b>\$ 20,966.28</b>	<b>\$ (29,988.49)</b>
Prorated carryover- Previous Year	\$ 9,492.34	\$ 9,492.34	\$ -	\$ 5,512.50
<b>Net after carryover applied</b>	<b>\$ 4,026.85</b>	<b>\$ (16,939.43)</b>	<b>\$ 20,966.28</b>	<b>\$ (24,475.99)</b>



### Address change

Please make these changes in your Directory

Friedl Bell  
1282 Goodpasture Island Rd #214 97401

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