

THE CENTRALITE

November 2021



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN
CHRIST CONGREGATION

Central's Staff

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Pastoral Intern

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Campus Ministry
Deacon Clare Josef-Maier

Organist/Choirmaster
A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Associate Organist
Lindsey H. Rodgers

Parish Nurse
Sally Diehm

Parish Administrator
Kristi Hoiland

Financial Manager
Cindy Culpepper

Children, Youth & Family
Coordinator Crystal Miller

Church Council

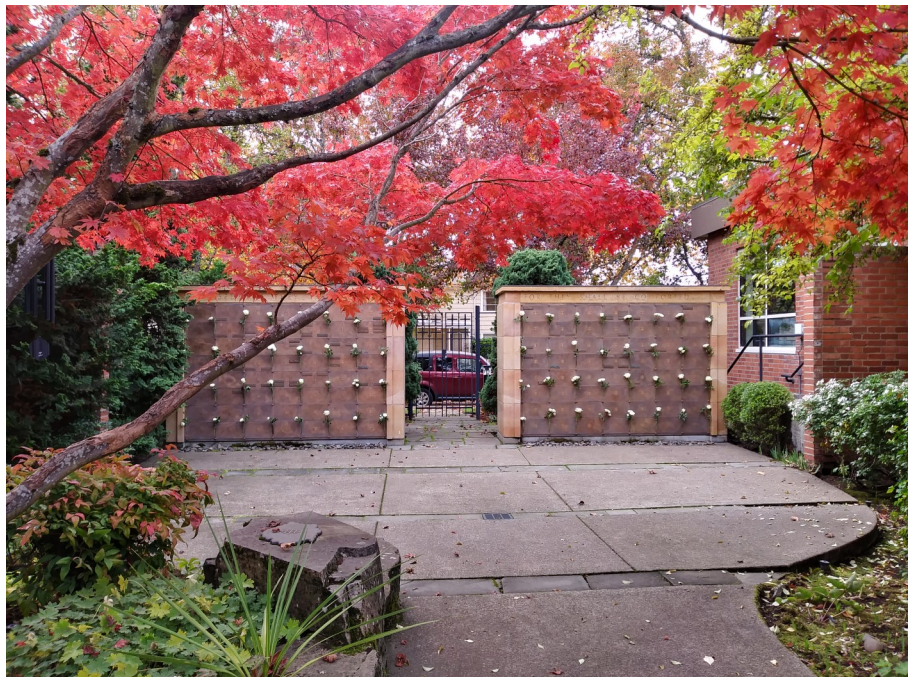
President, Larry Sutton
Vice Pres, Sheri Pyron
Secretary, Jack Bennett
Treas, Charlotte Bontrager
Jean Clancey
Matt Haugen
Chris Henry
Jill Liedtke
Dennis Lindsay

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
SHARING THE GOSPEL

All Saints Day **Service of Remembrance** **November 1st at 5pm** **Central's Memorial Courtyard**

We will gather in the Courtyard to remember the lives of all 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).



*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places..."
(From Paul's epistle to the Ephesians)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to begin this epistle by simply saying, "Thank you!" Your generosity never ceases to amaze me. Whenever I've shared a specific need with you, there have always been people in our faith community who have been quick to respond to meet that need. Whether it's been to help a family with household furnishings, cooking a meal for families at the Annex, fixing a leaky faucet, driving someone to their doctor's appointment, or countless other needs—both big and small—your generosity has been overwhelming. In fact, to be perfectly candid, it is downright humbling.

Even though we don't all have the same gifts or talents, nor do we have the same financial resources or obligations, it's amazing what we are able to accomplish together through the gifts of the Spirit and by the grace of God. That's one of the things I treasure most about being a part of the body of Christ and the community of saints here at Central.

Furthermore, even during these unprecedented times when we haven't been able to gather together under the same roof like we were doing before Covid, together we have continued to contribute generously to support our congregation's mission and ministry. When it comes to giving monetarily to the church it is important to be reminded that our tithes and offerings ought be proportionate to one's personal situation. That's why I tend to refer to giving as a percentage of income rather than a dollar amount, and even then each household has different circumstances that must be considered.

Personally I have been blessed throughout my life to be able to tithe a minimum of one-tenth of my income to the church. Then, on top of my tithe, I also give to other people, places, and things that are near and dear to my heart. Yet, as we all know, there are always more needs (or asks) than any of us can possibly meet on our own. And so I give thanks to God and trust that together we are able to share from our abundance.

Now, as we draw closer to the end of our fiscal year, I want to remind you that your financial support is needed to end 2021 strong and move faithfully forward into 2022. But I also want to once again simply say, "Thank you." And more importantly still, "Thanks be to God!" Together we are indeed blessed; blessed to be a blessing!

In Christ's Abiding Love,
+Pastor Laurie

*"The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ [has been disclosed] for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."
Rom 3:22-24*

Dear community of faith,

We approach two important days on our church calendar – Reformation Day and All Saints' day. October 31 is our celebration of the Protestant Reformation because it was on Oct 31, 1517 that Martin Luther posted his 95 theses questioning the use of indulgences that began a series of events leading to the Protestant Reformation. Here, 504 years later, several key aspects of the Reformation continue to resonate. Most notably, it was Luther's reading of Paul's letters – such as from Romans 3 above – that opened up salvation by grace rather than by works. Luther was deeply bothered by the medieval quantification of what a "holy life" looked like through various "holy acts" and the way that created a hierarchy of some people being "more holy" than others. Luther rejected all of that. He found in the Gospel that there is no distinction between people – all people are justified by grace equally, and all those in Christ are one community, not divisions of better and worse Christians. Luther insisted that all people are equally saints and sinners at the same time, and all loved and embraced by God through Christ.

The following day, Nov. 1, is All Saints' day. At that time, we recognize all of those near us who have passed on into glory. We grieve the loss of so many loved ones this past year - as a world, a nation, a state, and especially as a church. The day is a time to recognize the whole community of faith which is not just those people we see on Sundays, but also all those who have gone before. In fact, theologically, when we enter in the space of worship, at that time and in that place are all who have ever or ever will worship together into that same space and worshipping the same God. It is also time for those of us who are still alive to grieve as well as to rejoice that we are one community at all times. We can because the saints that are among us are not just those who have died, but also those who are alive – all who are in relationship.

The fact that Reformation Day and All Saints Day come back to back is an accident of history. All Saints day as November 1 goes back to at least as early as the year 835. Reformation day on Oct 31 would not be celebrated until 1617, and was not set at that day for any reason related to All Saints' Day or All Hallows' Eve, instead it was put there because of the anniversary of the posting of the 95 theses. However, there is more continuity than discontinuity between the two days. Luther made very clear there was no distinction, all are saints due to God's amazing power of grace in the world. There are no more or less "righteous" people before God – all are one in Christ. That is our hope and joy during All Saints' Day. As we remember those who have gone before us, we are assured of the joy and glory in which they rest due to that same amazing power of grace, and that we can also hope for ourselves.

In Christ's love,

Vicar Ben

Worship with us on ZoomSundays at 11am

Central is offering a new kind of worship service on Zoom at 11am on Sundays. We will not simply be doing an abbreviated liturgy of the early service a few hours later, but this service will have components of a more contemplative and contemporary nature. It will remain true to our Lutheran identity, while presenting a unique style of worship. We will be having a Service of the Word that will be filled with reflection and meaning. This will include a Psalm of Lament as we reflect upon the pain and suffering of the world, prayers of thanksgiving for who God is in our lives, reflective readings, a Gospel reading and Homily, a contemporary affirmation of our Christian faith, a time for worshipers to offer prayers of concern as well as prayers of thanksgiving, and a sending benediction. It recognizes the value of a service on Zoom – that we can see one another as we worship together, and recognize who we are as community. It also encourages us to be reflective of who we are in relationship with God. We hope this will be a service rich in meaning and community and we invite you to come try it – even if you have already attended the earlier service – it will be a completely different experience for us as the people of God, one that seeks to connect us more deeply with God and with one another.

SERVE THOSE IN NEED...

by preparing meals for First Place Family at the Annex

Since June 2020, members of Central have been preparing a weekly meal for the families at St. Vincent de Paul's First Place Family Annex, Night Shelter, (the Annex). The shelter houses up to 20 families overnight, who are working with local agencies to find permanent housing. This past summer they were at capacity and had to put some families in pallet shelters in the parking lot. On any given Monday, Central members will prepare food for between 30 and 50 people, including many small children. COVID-19 protocols do not allow us to cook at the site, therefore we prepare the meals at the church kitchen, and then deliver to the Annex. In the past 15 months, there have been a few dedicated members who regularly sign up to help. We can use more help. I often fill in the slot when no one has signed up to cook. The food is all provided free from the Eugene Mission. We pick up the food on Friday, to be prepared and delivered to the First Place Family Center Annex between 4:00 PM and 4:30 PM, the following Monday. If you are interested in helping, or would like to know more about the program, please call Kim Meyers at 541-914-8442, or email klmcpa.meyers@gmail.com.

Chi Rho November 12-14 in person and online
at connecttocentral.org

Chi Rho Lectures 2021



Doing Ethics in Extraordinary Times: *The Witness of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer is often celebrated as an example of a modern Christian martyr, and his participation in a plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler tends to be looked upon with favor. It is striking that Bonhoeffer himself deliberately sought to avoid justifying his actions. In these lectures we will explore what it means to do ethics in extraordinary times and consider what the witness of Bonhoeffer means for us today.



A Weekend of Study with
Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker
November 12-14, 2021 • Eugene, OR

Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker is Lead Pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Beaverton, Oregon. He is volume editor of *Conspiracy and Imprisonment: 1940-1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, Volume 16*, 2006 and author of *Coming Home to Earth*, 2016. He is past-president of the International



Bonhoeffer Society – English Language Section. He served as Adjunct Professor in theology and ethics for Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, 1998-2014.

All lectures will be held in person and via streaming at Central Lutheran Church, 1857 Potter St., Eugene, Oregon. Face masks are required.

**Creating Courageous Human Beings:
The Work of the Holy Spirit in Bonhoeffer's Ethics**
Friday Lecture, Nov. 12, 7:30 pm

Toward a Concrete Evangelical Ethics of Responsibility
Saturday Workshop, Nov. 13, 9:30 am-12 pm

**When the Ground Moves under Our Feet:
Being Responsible in Extraordinary Situations**
Saturday Lecture, Nov. 13, 7:30 pm

Sunday Morning Sermon
Rev. Brocker will preach at the 8:30 am service.

What Does It Mean to Tell the Truth?
Sunday Adult Education, Nov. 14, 9:45 am

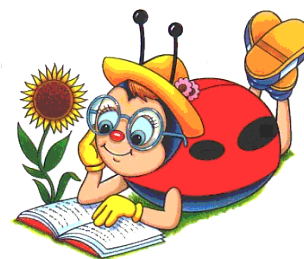


Chi Rho Series Lectures are free and open to all.
<https://www.welcometocentral.org/chi-rho/> • ChiRhoLectures@gmail.com

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The CLC Book Club will meet **via ZOOM** on **Monday, Nov. 8, at 7:00pm** to discuss ***High on the Hog*** by Jessica Harris.

"Acclaimed cookbook author Jessica B. Harris has spent much of her life researching the food and foodways of the African Diaspora. *High on the Hog* is the culmination of years of her work, and the result is a most engaging history of African American cuisine. Harris takes the reader on a harrowing journey from Africa across the Atlantic to America, tracking the trials that the people and the food have undergone along the way. From chitlins and ham hocks to fried chicken and vegan soul, Harris celebrates the delicious and restorative foods of the African American experience and details how each came to form such an important part of African American culture, history, and identity. Although the story of African cuisine in America begins with slavery, *High on the Hog* ultimately chronicles a thrilling history of triumph and survival. The work of a masterful storyteller and an acclaimed scholar, Jessica B. Harris's ***High on the Hog*** fills an important gap in our culinary history." (*credit: Goodreads*) The discussion will be led by Gary Wolfe.



The ZOOM link will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

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 >.

Looking Ahead: **The CLC Book Club** will meet on **Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, at 7:00pm** to discuss ***Square Haunting*** by Francesca Wade. The discussion will be led by Meg Hicks.

NEWS FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

SOS HELP WANTED SOS

Looking for men and women with genuine interest in people, caring, compassion and excited to use their gifts to serve God and His people at Central. Become a Stephen Ministry leader. No previous experience as a Stephen Minister required. Amazing paid small group training on Zoom available in one or two hour time blocks. Exciting new material. Guaranteed to receive more than you give. If you're interested....great! If not, consider others at Central who would be persons of interest. I will happily follow-up letting them know a fellow member recommended them (Your name not shared unless you want it to be.) Call Gretchen Simas at 541-338-8138 or email me at musicman64@comcast.net. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.



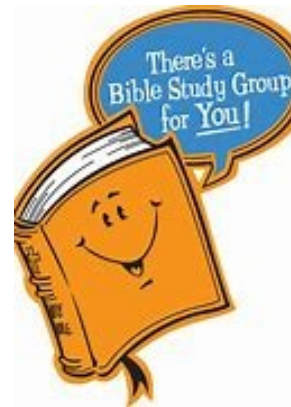
WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Lue Berg, Terry Chap, Nicole Christie, Chris Dietz, Carolyn & Bob Evans, Linnea Embleton, Arline Fors, Dal Haverland, Ilona Johnson, Keith Jurasevich, Joy Lathrop, Doug and Jody Martin, Shirley Watson, Genevieve Youngquist; and the family and friends of Susan Jennings (sister of Sarah Gillam) who died this past month.

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

NURTURE FAITHFUL LIVING

...by diving into the word of God
with a few of your friends from Central



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study meets weekly in person on **Wednesdays at 7am** in the Library. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact Chuck Dietz at 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.

WOMEN'S PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Prayer and Bible Study meets weekly on **Thursdays at 11am** via 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.

Youth and Family Events

All youth and families are invited to Halloween festivities on Sunday, October 31st from 4-6pm at Emmaus Lutheran Church. This will be a jointly hosted CUE event, and all are welcome. **We would love volunteers from the church (parents, grandparents, or other kind souls) to volunteer.** We are in need of individuals willing to decorate their trunk and hand out candy at 5pm. Please contact Crystal or the office if you are interested in volunteering. We also ask that you let Crystal know if your family will be participating in this event. Please join us for games, trunk-or-treating, and pizza!

Middle and High school students are invited to a **CUE mini-retreat on Friday, November 12-13th.** We will gather at United Lutheran Church at 5pm. This will be a time for fellowship and service. Please let Crystal know if your teen will be joining us.

Calling all kids to a fabulous Christmas party is Saturday, December 4 at 10am-3pm at Central Lutheran Church. This will be a time for crafts, games, and exploring the Christmas story. We invite kids of all ages to join us for this fun time and encourage our parents to take some well-deserved me-time. **To make this party a great success we are asking for teen and adult volunteers.** If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Crystal or the church office. If your kids are able to attend, please let Crystal know.

All recommended COVID-19 precautions will be followed at all of our teen and family gatherings.

Family Camp at Camp Lutherwood

What a wonderful time was had at Family Camp this past month — families from Central, Emmaus, and United gathered Friday night to Sunday morning to play, learn, worship, eat s'mores (of course) and enjoy the natural wonders offered by Camp Lutherwood. We are grateful for Crystal's organization and leadership, and for the opportunities for adults and children alike to strengthen relationship, grow in faith, and avail themselves of opportunities for restoration in difficult times.



Family Camp At Camp Lutherwood



Top left: Maeve strikes a pose
Top right: Iris and Vicar Ben

Center Right: A rousing
(creative) game Connect Four!

Bottom: Pastor Laurie gives
instructions for a "symbols
of baptism" family scavenger hunt

Opposing page: It's never camp
without a game of Gaga Ball!





Sunday, November 7th marks our transition back into Pacific Standard Time — don't forget to roll your clocks back an hour! Sunday the 7th will also mark our morning worship transition from our 9am worship time back to our traditional 8:30am.

Central's Quilters at work!

On Sunday, October 17, we dedicated the bounty of many hours of hard work by our quilting group. The quilts are taken up to St. Andrew's Lutheran in Beaverton, where Lutheran Disaster Response receives them. They are then distributed to those in need both in this country and abroad. They will provide warmth and joy in ways we cannot imagine. During this time of COVID, the work of the gospel continues and we continue to serve in various ways. Thanks to all the quilters and the drivers who transport them to Beaverton. This is an example of being Christ's hands and feet for the world!



HEARTH & TABLE IS BACK!

2021 marks the 3rd year of the Hearth & Table program, a food-security ministry to our local college and university student neighbors. This program is designed to dovetail efforts of the Episcopal Student Food Pantry (hosted out of Grace Lutheran Church, down the road) by helping students translate their pantry ingredients into nutritious meals. Chef Ryan Josef-Maier designs recipes each week— often gluten-free and/or vegan— and works with students in the kitchen to strengthen their confidence and skill with cooking. Since COVID-19, meals

have been packaged to go, distributed with care by Christus House residents on Thursday nights. However, the full vision of this outreach includes a community meal around shared tables, connecting and laughing over “Would You Rather” questions and their shared joys and stresses as students.



We celebrate the campus connections enabled through this ministry. We are active participants at the UO Food Security Taskforce table; Chef Ryan is once more coordinating with The Duck Nest, a UO extension of the Health Center, in offering virtual cooking classes once a term; and we are returning partners to the Duck Corps service program through UO’s Holden Center for Leadership and Community Engagement. Financial partnership for this program is supported both in our agency-partner status with FOOD for Lane County as well as an annual grant from the national Lutheran Campus Ministry.



Central Lutheran Church
Jan-Sept 2021 Compared to Jan-Sept 2020 Income:Expense Summary

	Jan-Sept 2021	Jan-Sept 2020	Difference
Regular Envelopes	\$ 396,818.81	\$ 410,451.06	\$ (13,632.25)
Other Offerings	873.10	\$ 2,618.90	\$ (1,745.80)
Holiday Offerings	5,590.00	\$ 4,253.00	\$ 1,337.00
Other Income	90,283.65	\$ 22,874.04	\$ 67,409.61
Departmental Income	62,955.73	\$ 40,704.44	\$ 22,251.29
Total Income	\$ 556,521.29	\$ 480,901.44	\$ 75,619.85
Total Expenses	\$ 569,332.76	\$ 504,739.25	\$ 64,593.51
YTD Net Income	\$ (12,811.47)	\$ (23,837.81)	\$ 11,026.34
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 46,000.50	\$ 9,915.00	\$ 36,085.50
Net after carryover applied	\$ 33,189.03	\$ (13,922.81)	\$ 19,266.22



Address changes

Matt & Stacy Haugen
 1860 Tabor St Eugene 97401

Gene Youngquist
 2390 McLean Blvd Eugene 97405

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
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 OR WWW.CONNECTTOCENTRAL.ORG