

# ***CENTRAL LUTHERAN MESSENGER***

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Pastor Kathleen Anderson

***VOLUME 71 Number 8***

***August 2021***



**September Messenger Deadline is  
August 27th, 2021**

**Please e-mail your articles to  
Central Lutheran Church  
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## INVITING AND WELCOMING

A few years ago, I found an article by an ELCA pastor who, along with his congregation, had decided they will no longer be welcoming.

Instead, they made a conscious decision to be **inviting**. It may seem like a fine line between the two, but the differences being “welcoming” and “inviting” can be profound.

A congregation who says they’re “welcoming” implies that they’re waiting for people to come knocking on the door, waiting for people to flock to the church, waiting for people to come to **them**. It may have worked that way once upon a time, but this strategy will work no longer. People have too many options on Sunday morning and too many people see the Church and its congregations as bigoted, hypocritical, and homophobic. None of these issues that congregations squabble over endlessly are issues to younger people. I can’t say that I blame younger people for their view of the church because all too often we demonstrate all three things mentioned above.

So when a congregation puts out a “welcome statement” that welcomes “all”, most of them don’t really mean it, because what too many congregations want to do is choose who they welcome and who they don’t. I don’t think I need to tell you that choosing who you will and won’t welcome is not welcoming at all. In my experience, too many congregations are more concerned about pleasing people than they are about reflecting God’s love. The body of Christ is not called to please people, but to please God and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. We do this by loving God above all else and our neighbors at least as much as we love ourselves. We please God by treating others even better than we want to be treated, because how we treat others matters.

What this other pastor wrote about his congregation, though, is something that all congregations should take a look at: becoming an inviting church rather than a welcoming church. It actually is more one of those both/and situations, but usually we ignore one to highlight the other, or we get the order backwards. Invitation should come first, and then welcome.

“We’ve decided to quit being a welcoming church,” writes the Rev. Dr. Rob Moss, “[and] it will take motivation, leadership, and constant reminders. [I]t will take total commitment in embracing a new focus.”

He goes on to say that, “Like so many churches, we’ve sunk an amazing amount of time and energy into becoming a welcoming church. We changed worship styles, we trained greeters and ushers, we wore nametags, we percolated coffee, we went to workshops on hospitality, we put our friendliest people in the most prominent places on Sunday mornings. But we’ve realized we’ve been misplacing our emphasis. So we’re no longer going to do it.”

Misplacing emphasis how, exactly? “Here’s what we’re doing instead. We are becoming an Inviting Church. That’s different. . . [because] ‘welcoming’ from a missional perspective is passive. It denotes waiting for visitors and guests to drop by. . . We’ll do whatever it takes to have them come back the next Sunday, even if they shouldn’t. Welcoming is about us, not about them.

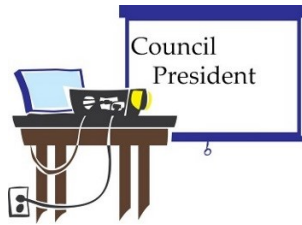
“ ‘Inviting,’ however, is different. That means we leave the comfort of our congregational home-court advantage. The main activity doesn’t happen in our worship space when people drop in, but in the neighborhood when we go out. It isn’t so much welcoming them into our place, but going out into their place and meeting them there.

“This is not just another gimmick to get people into the church. The foundation of this isn’t an attempt to bolster declining membership rolls. . . [I]t goes much deeper than that. It starts with who God has called us to be as church. It involves discovering our gifts and purpose. And it mandates joining God at work in the world. This isn’t about getting the world into God’s church; it’s about getting the church into God’s world.”

Peace to you all – Pastor Anderson

Pastor Moss’s blog post is at:

<https://www.mittensynod.org/we-will-no-longer-be-a-welcoming-church/>



Are we at Central welcoming? How are we welcoming? If someone new to Yakima saw our reader board, our website, or our Facebook page, would they think we were welcoming? How about if someone stopped in on a Sunday morning, would they feel welcome? We are called to welcome the stranger, to reflect God's love, and therefore to make everyone welcome to attend Central Lutheran, to meet us at "coffee" after church (too hot for coffee! Lemonade and cookies?), to join Bible study, to even join an "established" group like a committee, Days for Girls, Piecemakers, or??? Even if they don't look like us, dress like us, sing like us, or pray like us, is everyone welcome at Central? As we start to gear up for a full fall schedule of Sunday School, worship, adult classes, think about how YOU are welcoming. Give it some thought, give it some prayer, and I can't wait to see you in church!



Watch for the up coming special edition of the Messenger!

IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

Phyllis Gillihan (*Ponderosa*)  
Joanne Puyear (*Arbor House*)  
Art Ries (*Livingcare*)  
Toni Perschke (*Avamere*)  
Walter & Edith Mabry (*Yakima*)  
Betty Douglas (*Moxee*)  
Elaine Bueling (*Covenant House*)  
Mel Carlson (*Fieldstone Memory Care*)  
Gail Hills (*Izzy's House*)  
Gary Pierone (*Good Samaritan*)  
Dale Miller (*Yakima*)  
Wilma Aspevig (*Yakima*)  
Doris Benish (*High Gate Memory Care*)  
Kathern Carmichael (*Karen Franklund's friend*)  
Chet Hausken (*Yakima*)  
Marie Halverson (*Yakima*)



Lynda B. served as Resource Staff at Camp Lutherhaven the week of July 6th with Jennifer C. and Felicity P. Our four CLC volunteers accompanied three CLC campers and volunteers donated approximately 130 combined volunteer hours in the name of Central Lutheran Church.

# “Celebrating Central”



4th Ron & Barb Rutherford

7th Chet & Irene Hausken

8th David & Julie Lambertson

12th Erika & Chris Camren

14th Kevin & Janet Barnes

19th Al & Fran Karn

21st Don & Sharon Having

Rick & Barb Rodden

Bill & Joan Harrison

23rd Duane & Kirsten Monick

25th Dick & Bev Larson

26th Wayne & Laura Hahn

27th Ron & Claudia Burkhardt

31st Virgil & Selma Umbarger



1st Finnegan Bond

2nd Chip Rognlie

7th Julie Lambertson

9th Rhonda Boyle, Erika Vestad, Mary Johnson, & Jim Bodeen

12th Ken Toop

13th Holly Gonseth

14th Faith Hahn-Landis

18th Fran Karn

19th Leah Meiser & Krista Sanders

20th Sharon Having

21st Wilma Aspevig

23rd Madison Holmes

24th Pat Ackley

26th Carter Svendsen

27th Brandon Pittman & Amber Hahn-Keenan

28th Svea Brown

29th Luke Svendsen, Scott Peterson, & Delaney Boyle

30th Tom Perry

31st Lorry Evert-Garvin



# “LUTHERHAVEN 2021”



Six youth, five young adults and Felicity volunteered a combined 95.5 hours at Lutherhaven over the weekend of July 16th. This trip replaced the annual “Service and Silverwood trip.” As a reward for their hard work Lutherhaven invited them to climb tower, zipline, and paddle board.







<b>Treasurer's Report</b>					
<b>Financial results thru</b>		<b>June 30, 2021</b>			
	Offerings/income	June	Year to date	Expenses by major category	
		June	Year to date	June	Year to date
General fund	42,307.27	189,448.16	Salaries & benefits	17,257.10	110,242.98
Building Usage	263.00	4,269.31	Youth & Family	113.07	1,463.70
other income	14.48	109.54	Worship	60.13	1,132.58
Transfers			Hospitality	50.00	201.96
from endowment fund	17,000.00	19,373.08	Stewardship/Church in Society	12,150.00	34,659.34
from money market	223.59		Property	10,154.93	32,045.26
Gertie Hein - Visitation	-	-	Office	1,648.87	7,904.59
Total	59,808.34	213,200.09	Total	41,434.10	187,650.41
	June 2021		operating income, net of transfers	\$ 1,150.65	
			net income	\$ 18,374.24	
		Year to date	operating income, net of transfers	\$	6,176.60
			net income	\$	25,549.68



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**RECEIPT**

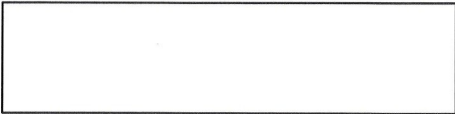
*Amigas,  
 We are honored by  
 your continued partnership.  
 Gracias for your  
 investment!  
 ☺ -Enri*

Date 5/14/2021

TRN # 14796

Payment Info	Payment Mthd
33877	Check

Description	Amount
Donation for Connecting Communities Campaign	5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>



**THANK YOU!  
 ¡GRACIAS!**

*Your generous investments make the difference in your Yakima Valley.*

La Casa Hogar is a 501 (c)3 designated non-profit. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent the law will allow.  
 Tax ID#:94-3070007

# SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

## THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

### Social Statement on: Caring for Creation: VISION, HOPE, JUSTICE



The title:

**Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope  
and Justice** summarizes the statement:

- ◇ **Caring** implies keeping, loving the creation, living wisely
- ◇ **Creation** here designates all that exists but with particular attention to the earth and entire complex and interdependent ecology.
- ◇ **Vision** refers to the biblical vision of a flourishing creation
- ◇ **Hope** refers to the confidence people of faith have that God will bring the whole creation to fulfillment as God has promised
- ◇ **Justice** suggests the principles by which people of faith should be guided in their actions today toward the environment.

*NOTE: This is part 2 of a 6 part series from the office of the ELCA.*

August

