

# CENTRAL LUTHERAN MESSENGER

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Pastor Kathleen Anderson

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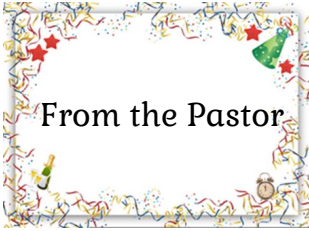
January 2023



**February Messenger Deadline is**  
**January 25, 2023**

**Please e-mail your articles to**  
**Central Lutheran Church**

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From the Pastor

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was

life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. (John 1:1-18)

The gospel of John does not have nativity songs like Luke does, but John does have a hymn to Christ in chapter one, verses one through 18, known as the prologue. The gospel of John does not have a birth story like Luke's, but John does proclaim that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The gospel of John does not say that the one conceived by the Holy Spirit would be the son of God,

but John does say that the one who became flesh was with God from the beginning, and what God was, he was. The gospel of John does not say that God's son was wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, but John does say that the revelation of God was concealed, effectively hidden, in a human body.

Just as the gospel of John is different from the synoptic gospels, these verses are different from anything in any of the other gospels. It's a poem that segues into prose starting in verse 19, but it has a clear beginning and ending and focuses on the Word of God—an appropriate focus for Christmas and Epiphany. At one level, John's entire gospel is an extension of verse 18, which says: "No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known." I always think it's a shame that we don't get more of John's gospel in our lectionary; it's treated largely as a fill-in. It's the gospel we turn to when one of the synoptics doesn't address something necessary.

Like the broader character of John's gospel, this passage, like most passages from John, are cosmic in nature, much bigger than the sum of its parts.

This prologue from John is an important text for Christmas. It's assigned to Christmas evening, and sometimes is read on Christmas Eve while the lights are low and the congregation is bathed in candlelight. John 1 is the perfect text to read as we reflect on the mystery of God coming to humans as a human. The prologue of John's gospel tells us that, even though God came to us this way, there is still mystery surrounding God that we will never know or understand. A fundamental human yearning is to know God, because to know God is to know eternal life. But no one has ever seen God, as John says, and even though God is the creator and sustainer of all life, knowledge of God does not come by observation or by gathering proof. Because God is gracious toward the world as we read in John 3:16, the darkness of ignorance and death ends with the coming of

the Son as the One who reveals all, including God. In fact, the only way we know God is through Jesus. God created and sustains us and the whole world by the Word, or Wisdom, which some scripture treats as a separate individual from the Word. There's an ancient Hebrew story that says Wisdom once asked God's permission to come and live on earth. God granted permission, but when the earth proved to be evil, foolish, and inhospitable, God made Wisdom into a book, the book of Moses, to dwell in the tents of Jacob. But for John the evangelist, the eternal Wisdom, the Word, becomes not a book, but a person: Jesus of Nazareth.

In his commentary on John's gospel, Martin Luther wrote this: "The world, and particularly we in the church, who possess, preach, and confess God's word, must remain familiar with this evangelist. . . Therefore, we propose to consider his gospel in the name of the Lord. . . and preach it as long as we are able, to the glory of our Lord Christ and to our own welfare, comfort, and salvation, without worrying whether the world shows much interest in it. Nonetheless, there will always be a few who will hear God's precious word with delight, and for their sakes, too, we must preach it. For since God provides people whom he orders to preach, he will surely also supply and send listeners who will take this instruction to heart."

Not everyone who met Jesus in his ministry on earth experienced God, for a variety of reasons, and this is still true today. I'm not saying that God can't work with and through closed people, but I do think God prefers to work with and through people who are open and not closed. As John tells us, to all who do experience the living God because they're open to the Spirit, God gives power to become God's own children.

May your Christmas and Epiphany seasons be blessed with mystery and revelation.

Peace, Pastor Anderson



From the Council

Dear Friends in Christ,

Wow, another year has just flown by, and big changes are coming to Central Lutheran. On behalf of your church council, and with the support and fantastic efforts of your Pastoral Call Committee, please attend the Special Congregational Meeting scheduled for 11:00 am on Sunday, January 22, 2023, to prayerfully consider and approval to extend a call to Pastor Ann Murphy, to serve as our next pastor.

This is another milestone for Central, and an opportunity to look forward with the guidance of our faith to see us all through, together in Christ. As we look to the forward searching light of our newly born Savior, what better time for the tasks at hand than during the season of Epiphany. I also see inspiration in the season of Hanukkah or 'Festival of Lights', as observed by the Jewish faith, which just ended on Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. "Hanukkah" is the Hebrew word for consecration or dedication, with a Google search note that the Aramaic New Testament uses the word "Hawdata" as a close synonym, which means 'renewal' or 'to make new'.

The New Year is always an important time to look forward and gather the courage and conviction to re-dedicate and renew ourselves in serving Christ, as reflected in our loved ones, our community and our planet, in the spirit of gratitude for God's Grace we all have received. What better way to start, than to welcome Pastor Ann, along with a heartfelt blessing to all who have served to make this transition a reality.

God Bless,

Chris Svendsen, CLC Council

# Congregational Meeting



Save the date! Our Call Committee and Congregational Council are recommending that Central Lutheran extend a call to Pastor Ann Murphy. A official Congregational Meeting has been set for January 22, 2023 directly following our 9am worship service. All members are invited to join in discussion and vote on this important decision.

Council has agreed on a salary package to be offered to Pastor Murphy that is within the budget that was approved at our most recent Annual Meeting; this and additional details will be available for the congregation to read ahead of the meeting.





At Cottage in the Meadow, families often spend hours upon hours with their loved ones in the last days of their lives. The Cottage has a pantry with items for families to quickly grab something to eat. Some ideas of items are:

- Snack puddings
- Jell-O cups
- Ready to eat tuna and chicken salad in the self serve cans
  - Peanut butter and or cheese crackers
  - Ready to eat cereals
  - Grab bags of Gold fish crackers, Cookies, etc.

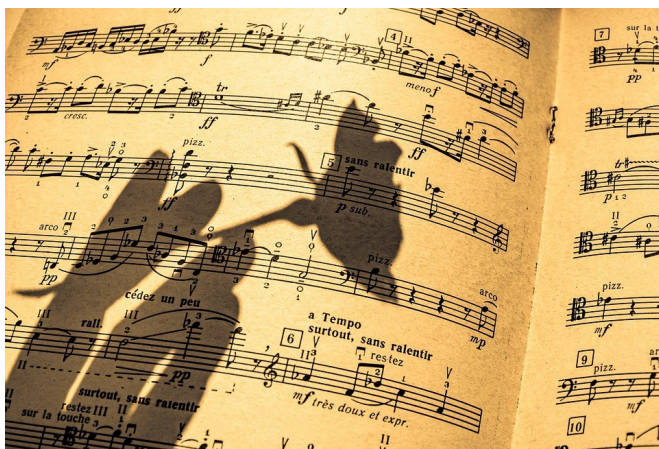
Anything along these lines would be great! Usually nothing that would go in the fridge, no perishables.

Please place items in the shopping cart that is by the entry to the office. For the meeting January 22nd the cart will be in the Narthex.





# Community Concert Series



**Central Lutheran’s mission statement states --  
‘to teach beyond our boundaries to our larger  
community’.**

This project will reach the larger Yakima Valley. All members of the community are invited to enjoy fellowship while hearing local musical group.

The concerts will be monthly and have local musicians performing. Bart Roderick has organize the series.

Mark you calendars for

January 22nd at 6pm: Camerata Club

February 26th: The Flute Troupe

March 26th: The Joe Brooks Quartet

April 23rd: TBA

May 21st: TBA





## New Year, New Life with Amazing Grace

**Did you know** The beloved hymn “Amazing Grace” was written by John Newton in late December 1772 as he was preparing for a New Year’s Day sermon January 1, 1773? When John Newton, a former sea captain, wrote the lyrics of “Amazing Grace” for a sermon on New Year’s Day 1773, he could see the “prodigal son” in his early life. His own father tried on several occasions to help him, but Newton was a hardened prodigal, a self-confessed “wretch” (a word he borrowed from Romans 7:24), distant from the heart of his father as well as the heart of God. Still, John Newton discovered that God in Christ’s deep and abiding love does not give up on anyone.



## Memorials for December 2022

John and Karen Baken - In memory of Wendy Baker

Barb Beehler - In memory of beloved family in heaven

Jim and Karen Bodeen - In honor of our family

Elise Bowman - In memory of Ola Vestad - In honor of Kaylee Vestad

Ron and Claudia Burkhart - In memory of Bertha, Fred, Jessie, Orval, Selig

Cheryl Bush - In memory of Gail and Gary Hills

Darla Carnevali - In memory of Joe and Elizabeth Carnevali, Forrest Latham

Melissa and Brad Christianson - In memory of Chris and Pat Christianson,  
Kenny and Normattilmes, Keith and Dona Dorsey

Jeanne Dillahunt - In memory of Eric and Dave

Terrie Dreisbach - In memory of Robt Dreisbach

Karen Durkee - In memory of John Durkee

Randa Emmel - In memory of Dick Adams - In honor of my children: Mike,  
Carol, Susie

Bonnie Fairbairn - In memory of Maxine Twamley and Tina Kunze Gregerson

Tim Franks - In honor of Doris Benish. - In honor of the people of Ukraine  
and others in war torn areas. May God bring you peace.

Brittany, Hillary, and Courtney Franks - In memory of Roger Hanna  
We miss you but are happy you are free from pain.

Courtney and Allisa Franks - In honor of Grandma Phyllis and other  
individuals that are shut in.

Milt and Sheila Gunderson - In memory of our parents, brothers, and sisters

Lela Hansen - In memory of Steve Hansen - In honor of family present  
and passed

Don and Mary Johnson - In memory of our parents

Richard and Esther Johnson - Ralph and Virginia Shuford

Marion Jones - In memory of Ron Jones - In honor of family and loved ones

Dick and Bev Larson - In memory of Marie and George Baken - In honor of  
Barb Beehler

Jan Lyon - In memory of husband Jack, son Ken, sister Mary Lou

Stephen and Sonya Merz - In memory of Robert and Alice Merz, Melvin and  
Wilma Olson

Kae Miller - In memory of Jim Miller - In honor of the Bradley and Miller  
family

Kathy Moen - In memory of Mae and Gilbert Moen - also Ada and Peter  
Bourgett

Duane and honor of Liam, Connor, Mitchell, Eliza Monick

The Pierone's - In memory of parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents

Scott and Jane Peterson

In memory of Don and Janis Peterson, Margie and Albert Rieschick

Lea Ramirez - In memory of my dear sweet friend Marcia VanDyke and my  
husband Rudy Ramirez

Milda Randall - In memory of Steven Randall

Helen Riehl - Thank you to all who sustain CLC

Hillary and Nathan Robey - In honor of Brooks Robey celebrating his 1<sup>st</sup>  
birthday

Barb Rodden - In memory of Della (mother) and Marius Pedersen (father)  
In memory of Chester Pedersen

Rick Rodden - In memory of Douglas Hinton (brother) and Kathleen Rodden  
(sister) In memory of Phyllis Hinton (mother) and John Rodden (father)

Paul Soderstrom - In memory of Paula Soderstrom and Nicole Soderstrom

Selma and Virg Umbarger - In memory of celebration of our family

Brittany and Brett Valicoff - In honor of Cooper Valicoff celebrating his 1<sup>st</sup> birthday and big sister Brynn

Erika Vestad - In memory of Ola Vestad, Ruth Johnson, Esther Ellingsberg  
In honor Elise Bowman and Kris Vestad

Kris Vestad - In memory of Ola, Mom, Dad, and Esther  
In honor of granddaughters Kaylee and Elise, kids Tor and Erika



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2nd Karen Bodeen

3rd Connie Buchanan

4th Barbara Rodden

5th Brett Valicoff

8th Theresa Whitlock

9th John Svendsen

12th Beverly Larson

16th Steve Hill

18th Kathy Marugg

25th Jeff Chapman and Betty Douglas

30th Jane Peterson, Angie Karn, and Kevin Good





17th Chris and Denise Svendsen

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Phyllis Gillihan (Ponderosa)

Chet Hausken (Fieldstone)

Art Ries (Livingcare)

Toni Perschke (Brookdale)

Betty Douglas (Moxee)

Wilma Aspevig (Lives with  
daughter)

Doris Benish (Orchard Park)

Marie Halverson (Yakima)

Elaine Bueling (Covenant House)

Joanne Puyear (Arbor House)

Tim Schulz (Yakima)

Virginia Prochnow (Izzy's House)

Donald and Barbara Breshears (Anne Chapman's Parents)

Don Adams (Toni Lynn Adam's Grandpa in Cowiche)

Kai Perala (Norma's Grandson)



# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p><b>1</b> Name of Jesus</p> <p>9:00 am WORSHIP</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>10:00 a TOPS 6:30 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>8:00 a Foot Care 9:30 a Preschool 10:00 a Bible Study 3:00 p On The Corner</p>
<p><b>8</b> Baptism of Our Lord</p> <p>9:00 am WORSHIP</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:30 a Preschool 10:00 a TOPS 6:30 p Boy Scouts 6:30 p Property Committee</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>8:00 a Foot Care 9:30 a Preschool 10:00 a Bible Study 1:00 p Pastor Text Study 3:00 p On The Corner</p>
<p><b>15</b> 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>9:00 am WORSHIP</p>	<p><b>16</b> OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p><i>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY</i></p> <p>6:30 p Church Council</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>8:00 a Foot Care 9:30 a Preschool 10:00 a Bible Study 3:00 p On The Corner</p>
<p><b>22</b> Third Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>9:00 am WORSHIP</p> <p>10:00 am Retreat for Congregation</p> <p>6:00 pm Community Concert Series "Camerata Club"</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:30 a Preschool 10:00 a TOPS 6:30 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>8:00 a Foot Care 9:30 a Preschool 10:00 a Bible Study 3:00 p On The Corner</p>
<p><b>29</b> Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>9:00 am WORSHIP</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>9:30 a Preschool 10:00 a TOPS 6:30 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>

# 2023

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday/Saturday
<b>4</b> 9:30 a Preschool 4:00 p Youth Group	<b>5</b> 9:00 a Piecemakers 9:30 a Preschool 2:00 p <b>Worship Committee</b> 3:00 p On The Corner	<b>6</b> Epiphany of Our Lord 8:00 a Foot Care
<b>11</b> 11:00 a OTC Committee 9:30 a Preschool 4:00 p Youth Group	<b>12</b> 9:30 a Preschool 3:00 p On The Corner	<b>7</b>  <b>13</b> 8:00 a Foot Care  <b>14</b>  Kyle Dixon Memorial
<b>18</b> 9:30 a Preschool 4:00 p Youth Group	<b>19</b> 9:00 a Piecemakers 9:30 a Preschool 3:00 p On The Corner	<b>20</b> 8:00 a Foot Care 6:00 p Rock & Mineral Club  <b>21</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30 a Preschool 4:00 p Youth Group	<b>26</b> 9:30 a Preschool 3:00 p On The Corner	<b>27</b> 8:00 a Foot Care  <b>28</b>



Thank you to the **Hospitality Committee** for the Christmas dinner it was good food and good entertainment. Bart Roderick played Christmas music, and lead 12 days of Christmas. Kirsten and others told their best or worst holiday memory.





A thank you to the following who helped decorate  
the sanctuary for Christmas.

Karen Bodeen, Sheila Gunderson, Marion Jones,  
Kirsten Monick, Erika Vestad, Elise Bowman,  
Robin Emmons, Sherry Lagerstam, Manny Guzman,  
John and Karen Baken

THANKS from Kris Vestad and Jane Peterson  
The Decorating Committee







Dear Central Lutheran Church,  
How very thankful we are for the generous gift of your beautiful Church space - it was perfect for our event!! We had so many families come through and handed out 1,000 gifts! Thank you again.  
Tracie Hoppis and Staff of the Parent to Parent Children's Village



The arborvitae by the Chestnut entrance doors were removed on Nov 30th by the **Property Committee**. The remaining stumps will be removed in the spring. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with this project. Manny Guzman, Duane Monick, Ron Burkhart, Wayne Hahn, Melissa Christianson, Virg Umbarger, Paul Rogers, and Randy Town.





To all the people involved in the 6:00 and 9:00 Christmas Eve services a big thank you from the Worship Committee.

We appreciate all the time and effort given to Central Lutheran during the Advent and Christmas Seasons. We won't name all the people involved from candles to bulletins and decorations to sound systems and ushers and the list goes on and on. Thank you for your gift of time and talent to Central Lutheran Church.

**From the Worship Committee**



A BIG thank you to everyone who purchased quilts at our annual quilt sale again this year. We appreciate your generosity as we continue our stewardship into the new year. We will donate the remainder of our quilts where ever they are needed in the community along with monetary gifts to various charities.

**Warm Holiday Wishes  
Central Lutheran Piecemakers**





## Birds in Winter

Whether you are an avid bird enthusiast or someone who finds their droppings on your car, deck or patio an annoyance, the truth is we need birds.

Birds provide services as pollinators, dispersers of seeds, scavengers, and they keep insect and rodent pests in balance. Unfortunately since the 1970s the earth has lost one out of every 4 birds, which amounts to a loss of 3 billion breeding birds.

What can we do? Most of bird losses are due to reduced habitat, but especially during the rigors of winter these are three things we can do to help out our feathered friends.

- 1). Provide high fat foods like oil sunflower seeds, suet, and even peanuts.
- 2). Make water available. This may require heating water to prevent freezing. Birds can eat snow but it drains their precious energy reserves.
- 3). Provide shelter like plant cover, roosting boxes, or even offering seed in sheltered places.

Birds are warm blooded like we are and need lots of food intake to keep their bodies at 106°. It is a myth, by the way, that feeding birds in the winter prevents them from migrating, so go ahead and do something to help out our important feathered friends this winter.

# The Youth and OTC enjoy their Christmas parties and decorated Gingerbread Houses







**Preschool love sledding down the hill and  
Christmas Caroling around the Church**





# OTC and Youth all have fun in the snow



**When it's too cold in the snow...games in the gym!**





Treasurer's Report						
Financial results thru		November 30, 2022				
Offerings/income		Expenses by major category				
	November	Year to date		November	Year to date	
General fund	35,842.39	274,764.60	Salaries & benefits	17,170.58	210,374.33	
Building Usage	878.10	2,393.10	Youth & Family	-	8,018.45	
Other income		1,531.55	Worship	160.53	5,533.60	
Transfers			Hospitality	26.97	1,363.64	
from endowment fund	1,870.00	79,142.41	Stewardship/Church in Society	-	44,192.81	
from money market	699.33		Property	7,616.58	113,729.19	
Gertie Hein - Visitation		-	Office	815.37	14,090.19	
Total	39,289.82	357,831.66	Total	25,790.03	397,302.21	
	November 2022		operating income, net of transfers	\$ 10,930.46		
			net income	\$ 13,499.79		
		Year to date	operating income, net of transfers		\$ (118,612.96)	
			net loss		\$ (39,470.55)	



Happy  
New Year

The text "Happy New Year" is written in a golden, cursive script. The word "Happy" is on the top line, and "New Year" is on the bottom line. The text is surrounded by various golden decorative elements: four-pointed stars, eight-pointed stars, and small dots. The overall style is elegant and festive.