

# CENTRAL LUTHERAN MESSENGER

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Pastor Ann Murphy

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Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

**January 2024 Messenger Deadline is  
December 20, 2023**

Please e-mail your articles to Central Lutheran Church  
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## From the Pastor

The Season of Advent  
On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Advent arrives, and we begin again our long vigil for the return of Christ. “Advent” literally means “coming.” That word “coming” has two senses: the coming of Christ as a baby long ago, and the future coming of Christ as Lord of all.

The Scripture lessons on the **First Sunday of Advent** beg us to make a realistic assessment of the current state of the world with all its pain and travail. We confront the question: Where is God during the calamities we face? and the underlying feelings: helplessness, anxiety, futility in the face of coming death, desperation in the face of all that we cannot control. With these questions and emotions besetting us, surely we know that we need something, anything from God — a sign of hope, a word of comfort.

On the **Second Sunday of Advent** that comfort comes to us in a word of promise spoken to us through the prophet Isaiah. God is doing something new. Fast forward several centuries, and John the Baptist appears on the scene, a voice crying in the wilderness – “Prepare the way of the Lord!” “Repent and turn back to God.” The gears of grace are again turning. God continues working out his plan. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has made entrance into world.

**The Third Sunday of Advent** we jump from the Gospel of Mark into the Gospel of John. There we once again find John the Baptist who describes Jesus as the “light of the world.” The Baptist is a witness to that light and directs attention away from himself to Christ. Like John the Baptist we are eminded that we, too, are called to testify to the light and engage in humble service in God’s mission in the world.

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent** is the annunciation of the incarnation to Mary by the angel Gabriel. We learn that God’s powerful Spirit works in mysterious ways. Anything is possible with God. Like Mary we, too, are servants of the Most High God, who calls us into “ventures of which we cannot see the

ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.” Like Mary may we, too, respond to God’s call and say, “Here I am, Lord.”

Every Sunday in Advent we light one more candle on the Advent wreath. As the days grow shorter, the light of the wreath grows brighter, pushing back the darkness around us. If you don’t have a tradition of lighting candles on an Advent wreath at your home, consider doing so this year during the four Sundays in Advent. It is another helpful way to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord and Savior.

Keep awake this Advent. Watch for signs of God’s presence with you and around you. Be prepared. Kindle the flames of your faith and rejoice! For God is always doing something new.

Advent peace be yours,

†Pastor Ann.



## Sundays in Advent & Christmas Eve Services

- 12/3 1 Advent – Hope
- 12/10 2 Advent – Peace
- 12/17 3 Advent – Joy
- 12/24 4 Advent – Love

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5:00pm and 9:00pm



## From the Council

Greetings fellow members of  
Central Lutheran-

We are at a transition, once again. It appears life is just a series of transitions, blending today to tomorrow, one year to another, and one decade to the next. Currently, we are in a transition from a season of gratitude and the gathering of harvest, to a season to preparing of our hearts for Christmas. . . an easy transition on paper, but more challenging every year, especially in this world and in our time.

John F. Kennedy, taken away from us 60 years ago last week, said: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." These words speak today, and to the season.

Maybe Thanksgiving is the proper herald to Advent, with an inward meditation of thanks becoming a yearning expectation of goodness and blessing, that becomes an outward expression to one another. This year's Annual Meeting brought home the wonderful work this Congregation has done and re-affirmed a commitment for the future, to ourselves and our community in Christ.

Thank-you Central Lutheran, and a blessed Advent season to you all!

-Chris Svendsen

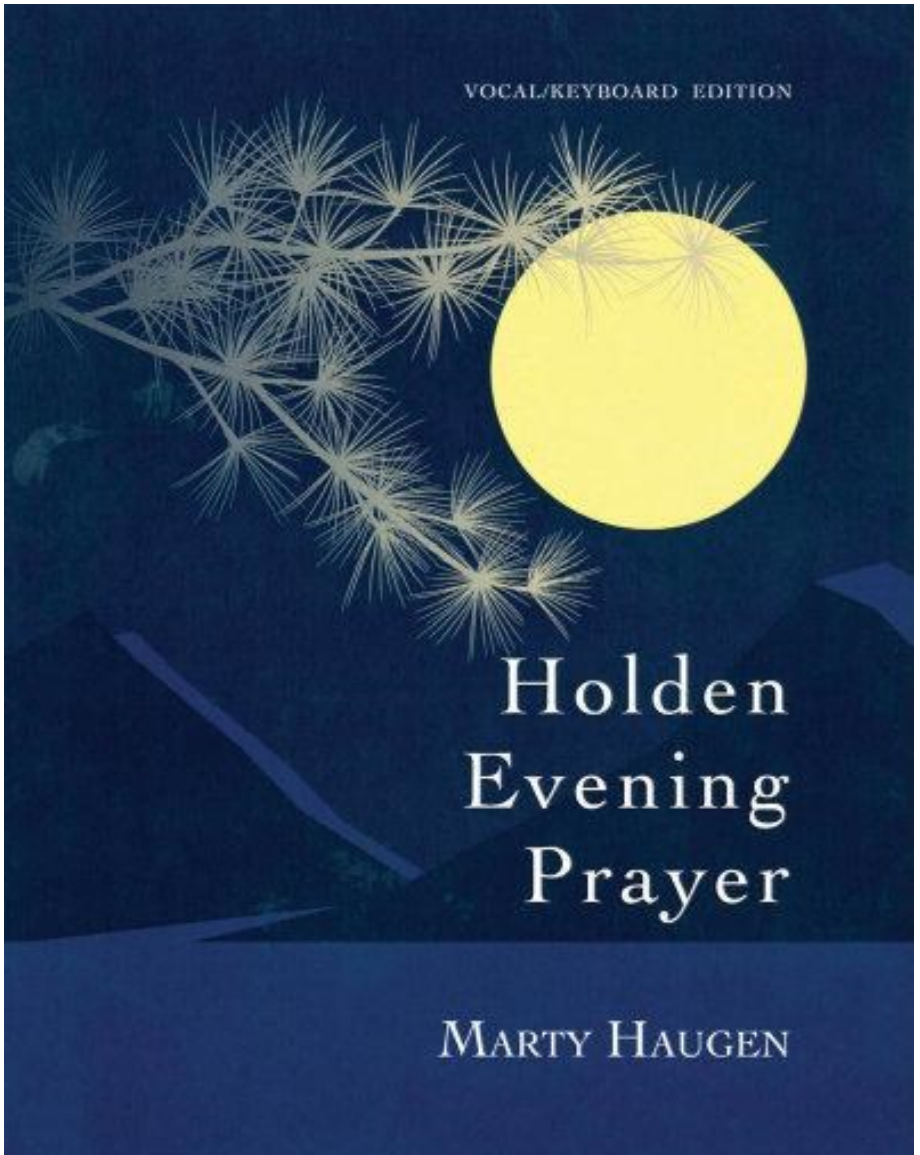


# Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesday Evenings in Advent

December 6th, 13th, and 20th | 5:30 - 6:10pm

In the Chapel







A BIG THANK YOU to John Kisala for making the beautiful candle stands for All Saints Sunday! They were amazing and we will be using them a lot.



November 26th was the Baptism of Jordan and Ayden Hahn. Grandson's of Wayne and Laura Hahn.



Please join the Hospitality Committee  
of Central Lutheran Church for  
Christmas Brunch!

Sunday, December 10th after Worship  
in the Fellowship Hall.

Happy Holidays!



Decorating Committee will  
be selling the memory or  
honor Christmas Poinsettias  
for \$5.00 in the Narthex  
after worship December 3rd,  
10th, and 17th. Names will then be listed in the  
Christmas Eve Bulletin.

# Sunday School & Confirmation



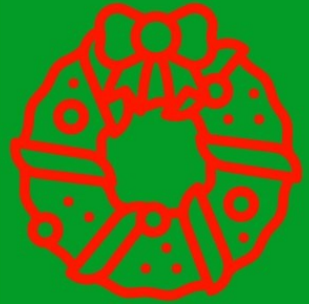
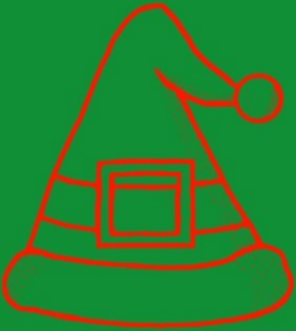
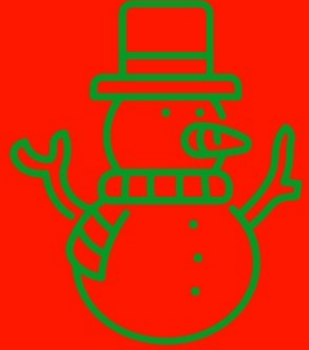
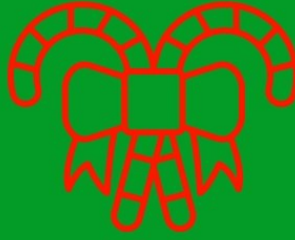
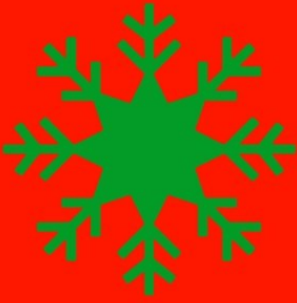
## Upcoming Sunday School Calendar

Sun 11/26	No Class – Thanksgiving Break
<b>Sun 12/3</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<b>Sun 12/10</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
Sun 12/17 – 1/13	No Class -- Break
<b>Sun 1/14</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>

## Upcoming Confirmation Calendar

Sun 11/26	No Class –Thanksgiving Break
<b>Weds 11/29</b>	<b>Class – pastor’s office</b>
<b>Sun 12/3</b>	<b>Class</b>
Wed 12/6	1 Advent Midweek Service, (No Class)
<b>Sun 12/10</b>	<b>Class</b>
Weds 12/1 3	2 Advent Midweek Service, (No Class)
Sun 12/17-1/24	No Class -- Break
<b>Sun 1/28</b>	<b>Class</b>





# Christmas Party

Play Games

Win Prizes

Eat Food

December 13th 4-6 PM  
Central Lutheran Church

CENTRAL LUTHERAN YOUTH  
Ages 5th-12th Grade

6:00



# Happy Birthday

*Wishing you a year filled with the warmth of family,  
the joy of friends and the love of our Father.*

5th Madeline Falk

7th Abby Christianson

8th Nancy Smart

9th Cooper Valicoff

10th Courtney Franks

11th Matthew Imbrock

13th Karin Avery

15th Kirsten Monick

16th LeNee Gatton

20th Nancy Roehr, Myrna Hillestad

21st Wayne Hahn, Suzanne Tarr

29th Lori Wilson

30th Soren Rottman

31st JoAnn Schliemann



3rd Tim and Judy Johnson

28th Mike and Faith Richardson

29th Paul and Holly Gonseth

## On Our Thoughts and Prayers

Art Ries (Terraces at Summiview)

Toni Perschke (Brookdale)

Betty Douglas (Moxee)

Wilma Aspevig (Lives with daughter)

Doris Benish (Avista Senior Living)

Joanne Puyear (Arbor House)

Tim Schulz (Yakima)

JoAnn Schliemann (Rexford Manor)

Donald and Barbara Breshears

(Anne Chapman's Parents)

Eunice Koeppel (Mable Swan Manor)

Terri Storlie, Margaret Turner's Sister In Law

Daisy Chapman, Jeff Chapman's Mother

Dave Desmarais, Ria's husband (Crescent)

Lisa Rogers (Yakima)



The Piecemakers welcomed Zach, Youth & Family Director with a Seahawk Quilt.



Thank you to all who helped with the bazaar. Many hands set up, managed, cleaned and vacuumed. Lunch was delicious! Thanks to all for making the day a success. -Piecemaker Bazaar Committee





THANK YOU to everyone who bought quilts at our annual quilt sale again this year. We appreciate your generosity as we continue our stewardship into the new year. We will be donating numerous quilts to shelters in the community as well as monetary gifts to agencies in need. Tim Franks won the beautiful raffle quilt and he so generously donated it back to the Piecemakers. Thank you Tim.

Warm Holiday Wishes From  
Central Lutheran Piecemakers



# Church in Society:



## **Caring for Creation**

*For a Greener Christmas: Think about These Things and You'll feel better about the Christmas Holiday.*

### Gift ideas:

- A tree to plant, or a plant to enjoy inside
- Tickets for arts or sports events, or a class
- Coupons for a joint activity
- Items produced sustainably and using recycled materials
- Introduce eco friendly products that you have discovered

### Plan to:

- Wrap in reused or reusable bags or wraps
- Eat less meat
- Choose local and seasonal produce
- Minimize food waste

Happy Holidays and Feel Good about Things When They are All Over.

**CHURCH**  **COUNCIL**

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**We would like to thank the members of the Church Council for the 2023 year. Melissa Christainson will be stepping off. New members coming onto Council 2024 are Jeff Chapman, Lela Hansen, and Holly Gonseth.**



The new windows are in the lower part of the building.



## **UPDATE: BUILDING & PROPERTY USE AGREEMENT**

Council recently revised our Building & Property Use Agreement. Below is the updated Policy and Procedure. The actual application, which is separate from the Policy and Procedure and not included below, has two parts. The first part informs those using our facilities of our expectations regarding property care and includes the requirement for outside groups to obtain a certificate of insurance. The second part asks for the name and nature of the organization, purpose of use, dates requested, and contains the fee schedule. After an application by an outside group is completed, the office will forward it to the pastor or Executive Council for approval. Copies of the updated application can be obtained from the office.

### **CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

#### **Policy for Use of Church Property and Facilities**

The primary purpose of Central Lutheran Church (CLC) is to carry on the mission and ministry of the congregation. To that end, church property and facilities are intended to be used primarily for functions of CLC. However, it recognizes that its ministry may be extended to the community at large through the sharing of its facilities. Therefore, CLC permits the use of its property by other religious organizations, individuals, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations, provided such usage is approved, does not jeopardize CLC's 501c(3) status, and does not interfere with normal church functions. Regarding use by outside groups, priority is given to nonprofit groups that are sponsored or supported by the church, and then to other nonprofit organizations.

Approval for the use of the property or facilities of CLC does not constitute or imply endorsement of a group, their mission, or their positions. Groups are not to advertise the event in such a way as to imply endorsement by the congregation. No activities or advocacy may take place within the congregation, its buildings, or on its grounds that conflict with the practices of this congregation and the ELCA.

## **Purpose of Policy**

This document sets forth policies, procedures, responsibilities, and terms of agreement relating to the use of CLC property and facilities for one-time or occasional use. On-going exclusive use of property or facilities requires a lease agreement which is outside the scope of this policy.

## **General Policy**

### **A. Use of Facilities**

1. CLC Groups: CLC encourages use of its property and facilities by CLC groups, including church sponsored activities (e.g. Scouts), church committee and administrative functions, worship services, ministries, fellowship activities, etc.

Non-CLC Groups: Outside groups may be granted use of church property and facilities to the extent such activities do not conflict with normal church functions or church group activities and when such use does not jeopardize CLC's 501c(3) status. Any rental income or donations received for non-commercial use may not exceed maintenance and operation expenses for the property and facilities used ([Property Tax Exemption for Nonprofits: Churches \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov)).

501c(3) Nonprofit Organizations: CLC permits the use of its property and facilities by these charitable organizations for their qualifying charitable events.

Other Nonprofit Organizations: CLC permits the use of its property and facilities by nonprofit organizations with other than 501c(3) status on a case-by-case basis depending on the purpose of the usage.



Qualifying charitable activities: CLC allows non-501c(3) nonprofit organizations (e.g., 501c(4) community associations, like Rotary, and 501c(7) social and recreation clubs, like rock, yacht, and country clubs) to use its property and facilities for qualifying charitable purposes; for example, conducting a local food drive or holding free meetings to help individuals struggling with substance abuse. ([Property Tax Exemption for Nonprofits: Churches \(wa.gov\)](#)).

Non-qualifying activities: CLC generally does not allow use of its property and facilities for nonexempt activities (e.g. holding a monthly club meeting for the local Chamber of Commerce). Requests for nonexempt activities will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A limit of 50 days per year may be used for nonexempt activities. ([Property Tax Exemption for Nonprofits: Churches \(wa.gov\)](#)).

Commercial or business activities: CLC generally does not allow use of its property and facilities for commercial or business purposes (e.g. a music instructor conducting classes). Requests for commercial activities will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A limit of 50 days per year may be used for nonexempt activities, 15 of those days may be used for commercial use. ([Property Tax Exemption for Nonprofits: Churches \(wa.gov\)](#)); ([RCW 84.36.020](#)); [WAC 458-16-190](#).

**Fundraising:** Fundraising activities may be held if sponsored by an exempt organization, the event lasts 5 days or less, is not regularly scheduled, and at least 51% of net proceeds are paid to the exempt sponsor. CLC may also permit facilities and property use for nonexempt activities up to a total of 50 days per year, of which 15 of those 50 days may be used for business activities. CLC may sponsor such fundraising events, for example bazaars including outside vendors, if the above criteria is met. ([Property Tax Exemption for Nonprofits: Churches \(wa.gov\)](#)); (RCW 84.36.020); WAC 458-16-190.

## **Recordkeeping**

### Church Calendar and List of Use by Outside

**Groups:** The office Administrative Assistant shall maintain a church calendar listing all events and activities at CLC and a spreadsheet of building use by outside groups. The spreadsheet should include the following: Date of Use, Name of Organization, Non-profit code, Purpose of Use (exempt or nonexempt), Income received, Commercial Use. ([Property Tax Exemption for Nonprofits: Churches \(wa.gov\)](#))

## **Application**

CLC Groups do not need to fill out an Application for Property and Facilities Use, but must advise the church office of their meeting dates and space and facilities requirements as soon as practical so that space assignments may be coordinated and reserved by the Administrative Assistant. Requirements, Responsibilities, and Restrictions of Use (Appendix A) must be followed.

All Other Groups and Individuals must complete the Application for Property and Facilities Use (Appendix B) and submit it to the Administrative Assistant for approval by Lead Pastor or Executive Council. Requirements, Responsibilities, and Restrictions of Use (Appendix A) must be read, signed, and submitted with the Application. Following approval, the office Administrative Assistant will coordinate and manage the group's building usage.

### *References*

WAC 458-16-190

[RCW 84.36.020](#)

[Property Tax Exemption for Nonprofits: Churches \(wa.gov\)](#)



Central welcomes  
Jess Jamie as our  
new custodian.  
Be sure to say hello  
when you see him in  
the halls!

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS

# UPBEATS

## COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1604 W YAKIMA AVE

FREE ADMISSION  
DONATIONS ACCEPTED



**January 28th: Camerata Club**

**February 25th: Joseph Brooks, clarinet**

**March 24th: Dora Barnes, soprano**

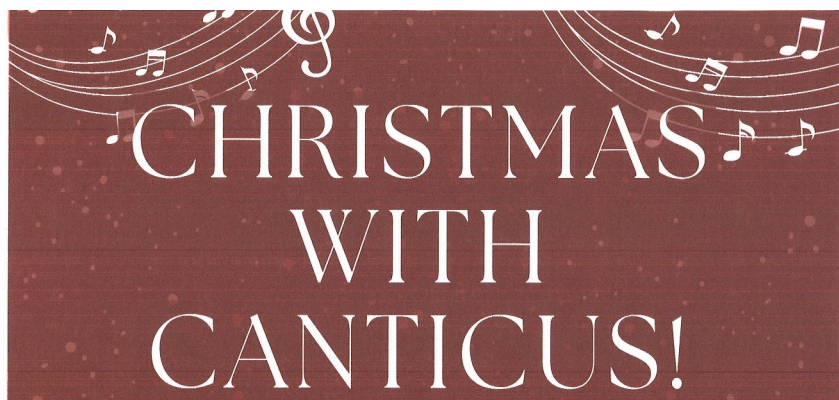
**April 28th: Flute Troupe**

**May 19th: Joe Brooks Quartet**

**All start at 6:00 pm**



November 19th UpBeat Community Concert Series,  
performing Sing Broadway! Thank you to Brittany  
Stahley and Laurel Kaschmitter with Darin Kaschmitter.



Canticus Vocal Ensemble Christmas Concert  
December 10th, 2023 4:00 pm  
at Englewood Christian Church



