



Central Lutheran Church

the Messenger newsletter

Central Lutheran Church

1420 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-277-1622 phone
centluth@gmail.com
<http://www.centluth.org>



2025

Pastor

We have pulpit supply through the summer, as a part of our call process for our future pastor.

Office Manager

Kathy Freeman centluth@gmail.com

Financial & Membership Secretary

Karen Voris centluth@gmail.com

Treasurer Kathy Dale

Choir Director Tai Wai Li

Bell Choir Director & Organist Debbie Pankow

Custodian Rey Nelvis

Find our congregation at

<http://www.facebook.com/centluth>



COMING EVENTS

Sundays

9:30 am Worship services led by:
August 3 Rev. Bill Maury-Holmes
August 10 Rev. Susan Halvor
August 17 Deacon Linda Bender
August 24 Rev. Kaila Armbruster
August 31 Rev. Kaila Armbruster

Saturdays 9 am - 2 pm
Anchorage Farmers Market

Saturday 8/2 at 9 am Men's
Breakfast @ Kava's on Muldoon

Sunday 8/17 following worship
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

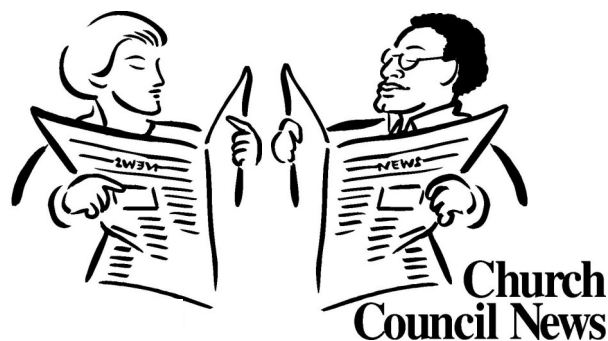


Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

I hope you all had a wonderful July and were able to enjoy the weather, the extra daylight hours, possible visits from family and friends, and the unusually good fishing season we have been blessed with this year.

I know it probably raises concerns when the Council President and Church Treasurer suddenly take off together to a remote location somewhere in the world, but rest assured, we are back and the money is still in the bank! At Kathy Dale's invitation, I joined her for a most remarkable trip to Iceland, the Land of Fire and Ice. For thirteen amazing days, we were immersed in a world of culture, history, nature and folklore. We hiked in fields, lava fields and on glaciers; got up close and personal with puffins and whales; rode Icelandic horses; walked a minimum of 10,000 steps each day, and that was only before lunch! We swam in the Blue Lagoon, soaked in another natural hot springs, and also in another lagoon, which leads me to say that we always seemed to be "in hot water" with someone! While we were there, as if on cue, the Grindavik volcano erupted again. Kathy was able to get to the site and see the lava flowing. Ask either of us about our trip, but be prepared to spend a long time listening, because we have a saga to tell! By the way, Iceland is a Lutheran country, so we have many pictures of Lutheran churches, new, old and ancient.



I was unable to get a letter drafted following our June 15 Council meeting, but it was pretty much business as usual. Of note:

- Central was awarded the 20 solar panels for which we applied, so those who pledged to support this project will be contacted for payment soon. Thank you to all who agreed to participate. Hopefully, this will enable us to defray our energy cost.
- The Financial Review Committee has completed its review, and the report will be presented to the Council at the August meeting.
- We still have issues with campers on our property. Hank Koegel is working on drafting a flyer to be given to would-be campers stating our policy, and he and John Bulkow will coordinate with Kathy Freeman to get this out. Because we have a policy in place, it is imperative that we enforce it. I know none of us like to be the one to confront those who have tried to set up camp here, but unless we enforce it, it might as well not exist. This is a matter of concern to us all. We don't have the resources to be able to hire a security team, so enforcement needs to come from the membership. This is our church, our property, our home and our community and we need to protect it as we would our own homes. Please contact any one of the Council members if you would be willing to serve on the enforcement team.
- Volunteers are always needed to staff the Clothes Closet. Julie Graham volunteered to contact members of other congregations to see if anyone would be interested in helping us keep this much needed and appreciated project going.

I would be remiss if I did not address the void left by the passing our Carol Norquist. Carol was in institution here at Central, as well as in many other places. She was a wealth of information – her mind retained everything, and if we had a question, we all

continues next page

knew Carol had the answer. I will remember her for many things, but the image that sticks with me the most was seeing her watering the plants around the church on Sundays as I was leaving. She loved gardening, and could always be found planting, watering, or otherwise tending to a plant somewhere. Rest in peace, Carol.

meeting. We need to be ever vigilant and be proactive.

Until next time, may God bless and keep you all.

Yours in Christ,
Birte Eliassen, Council President

That's it for now. Much has happened in a very short time that we will be addressing at our next council

Worship & Study

- † Sundays 9:30 am worship service
- † Central Seniors and friends - coffee klatsche every Wednesday at 8:30 am at Kaladi Brothers Coffee on Brayton Drive
- † Ladies - *Gather* Bible study meets at 2 pm on 2nd Mondays, next on August 11
- † Gentlemen - monthly breakfast and study meets at 9 am on 1st Saturdays, next on August 2 & Sept 6
- † Sarah Southside Circle meets on first Tuesdays, next on August 5 and September 2, for coffee at 10:30 am at Bells on Specking Road. All are welcome!
- † The Early Risers study and the Wednesday noon text study are on pause during our pastoral transition

Preaching schedule for August:

August 3 Rev. Bill Maury-Holmes

August 10 Rev. Susan Halvor

August 17 Deacon Linda Bender

August 24 & 31 Rev. Kaila Armbruster

Central Lutheran is praying for...

August ELCA Alaska prayer partner: Trinity Lutheran Church, Palmer

Central members or close family of our members who've passed in the last year:

Lila Ward (Lorna Nelson's mother), Carol West-Dahl (Lori Dahl's mom),

Rev. Myrin Bentz, Marie Brown, Bill Kostecki (brother in law of Eva Wissmann),

Larry Menkens (father of Stacey Menkens), Calvin Whitmire (Paul Harris's stepdad), Ed Mjolsnes,

Alice Pierce (Nathaniel Pierce's mother), Glenda Hanson (Anita Soiseth's mother),

Michael Laselle (nephew of Robin Harris), Ed Luiten, Jan Adasiak, Donna Luiten,

Roger Bulkow (John's father), David Bjorkquist (Brian's father), Carol Norquist, Kaare Elde

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting

The search for the next pastor of Central Lutheran Church is near its end. The Call Committee has made a recommendation, and the Council voted to approve the recommendation at a meeting on August 3, 2025. The Council, Finance Committee, and Synod will work together to develop a proposed compensation package, and the next step will be for the congregation to vote. For that purpose:

A special Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after our 9:30 am worship service on **Sunday, August 17, 2025**. The purpose of this meeting shall be a vote to offer a call to Vicar Zachary Tey Hughes Manzella to be the next pastor of Central Lutheran Church and, if the call is approved, vote on the proposed compensation package.



Birte Eliassen

Central Lutheran Church President



John Bulkow

Central Lutheran Church 1st Vice President



During August, Kathy is updating the Church photo directory, to ensure we're ready for our next pastor. As you enjoy the rest of summer, consider taking a picture of yourself or your family and emailing it to the Church office. Thank you to Craig Carlson, pictured above, for the first of the new photos. Pics may be taken indoors or outdoors, posed or candid.



Custodian Rey Nelvis

Bonnie Kragt, on our personnel committee, let us know at the Sunday service last week that Rey Nelvis, our custodian for over twenty years, is going to move out of state soon. She announced we're taking up a love offering for he and Evelyn in appreciation of his many years of exemplary service. Please send contributions in by August 12.



Saturdays
9 am - 2 pm
May 17 - October 11
at 15th & Cordova
Free parking
Alaska grown local foods



Donate by using the QR code

Website: <https://inourbackyard-ak.org/>

In our Backyard is a 501c3 nonprofit organization
Federal Tax ID #93-4915440

In Our Backyard Update

We hosted a Garden Blessing on July 31, and were blessed with wonderful weather and a great group of attendees. In these photos you'll see two of our tiny home residents, IOBY board members, Rev. Andy Bartel and Rev. Bill Maury-Holmes, Yarducopia and Anchor Gardens and Lions Club and Neighborworks volunteers and staff, Mayor Suzanne LaFrance, three Anchorage Assembly members and one Alaska state senator, and many of our supporters and friends from Central Lutheran and beyond. We celebrated the planting of the garden on the south side of IOBY, raspberries and more along the west side, and the cleaning and pruning of the "forest forage" garden Central planted more than a decade ago. YOU are welcome to walk through these gardens and harvest responsibly as you'll find treasures including medicinal herbs, fruits, rhubarb, and so much more.

- Kathy Freeman





Facing page, top photo: Julie Greene-Graham, chair of In Our Backyard, addresses the Blessing attendees. *Second photo:* Mayor Suzanne LaFrance speaks. *Third photo:* the “forest forage” garden with mulched walkways between rows of comfrey, currants, and more. *Bottom photo:* the newest In Our Backyard garden at the south west corner of Central’s property. *This page, top left:* This photo collage of building these gardens may be viewed just inside Central’s main doors. *Top right:* KTUU news was here, and subsequently ran a story with news of the 24 more “micro-units” of housing that will be built near Tudor and Elmore for a city project offering tiny home housing and substance abuse treatment this fall — using some of In Our Backyard’s experience in their planning process. *Second photo:* Rev. Bill Maury-Holmes of Alaska Native Lutheran provides the land acknowledgement. *Bottom photo:* The platform for a small group meeting room is in place within In Our Backyard, and construction begins soon.



**Women of the ELCA:
National**



The **Women of the ELCA** cannot wait to share news about the upcoming Triennial Gathering, July 16-19, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa!

Registration is now open! Visit the gathering website at <http://www.welcatg.org> to learn about speakers, (the website will be updated regularly) hotels, and more! Plus, we are looking for sponsors, vendors and exhibitors!

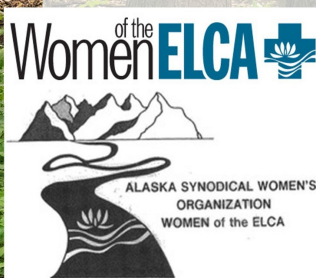
**Women of the ELCA:
Central Lutheran, Alaska Synod, and beyond**

When maps fail. . .

Traveling with God

An ELCA Alaskan women's retreat and convention
organized by the ELCA Alaska Synodical Women's Organization (ASWO)

Friday evening and Saturday,
September 12-13, 2025, in Anchorage



The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." Psalm 32:8

Worship:

Sundays 9:30 am worship service (see pulpit supply schedule on pages 1 and 2 of this newsletter)

Study:

Adult ed, early morning study, and confirmation classes take the summer off.

Ladies, our monthly **Gather Bible study** meets at 2 pm on 2nd Mondays, next on August 11. Bring a *Gather* magazine or share ours.

Gentlemen - **Breakfast & Bible Study** meets first Saturdays, next on August 2 and September 7, at 9 am at Kava's on Muldoon.

Fellowship:

Central Seniors and friends - **coffee klatsche** every Wednesday at 8:30 am at Kaladi Brothers Coffee on Brayton Drive.

Sarah Southside Circle meets first Tuesdays for fellowship, next on Tuesday, August 5 and September 2, for coffee at 10:30 am at Bells on Specking Road. All are welcome!

Join our multi-generational group of **pickleball** players. We play most Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall, often 4:45-6:15 pm. Text Christi at 646.710.0805 for details. All skill levels welcome—invite a friend—need not be a member!

Serve:

Year-round, we collect shelf-stable foods for **LSSA Food Pantry**. Our August focus will be lunch box favorites like granola bars, dried fruits and nuts packets, packaged rice Krispie treats, fruit snacks and leather, packaged crackers like goldfish and teddy grahams...

Needed: **one more volunteer** for Tuesday 1-3 pm shifts in our Clothing Closet on August 12, and each Tuesday in September. Take one or several dates, as you are able. RSVP to Church office, please.

Donations welcomed:

Our Helping Hands Clothing Closet

continues to welcome visitors about eight days monthly who are in need of socks, gloves, blankets, backpacks, outdoor gear, and clothing -- the fastest to go are smaller adult sizes. Donations may be new or used but usable, and are welcome during closet hours, office hours, or worship services.

Our **Little Free Library** welcomes your gift of used books and magazines, for all age groups.

News

News

News

Fourth Thursdays of the month, we provide the **evening meal to the residents of Clare House** women's and children's shelter. THANK YOU to our July 24 providers, Christi Foist, Lisa Bulkow, donors of funds, and delivery driver Kathy Freeman. Next date is August 28.

News:

Carol Norquist had a stroke on Thursday, July 10, and passed away Wednesday, July 16. Carol was so, so busy doing so much for garden clubs, our and other congregations, the Synod, In Our Backyard, her own family and garden, that many of us are in shock that she's not still here taking care of "one more thing" before she goes. That being said, please give extra hugs to those around you, and say thank you to those volunteering as she so generously did. We'll join her family in remembering Carol with a service on September 3.



Central provided a hospitality booth at the **Fairview Neighborhood Block party** on July 19. We gave away children's books, cookies and brownies, smiles and had a lot of great conversations. Thank you to Eva Wissmann, Dahna Graham, Anna Bryant Harris, Brian Bjorkquist, and Kathy Freeman and all our cookie providers.

Barbara Baker, Karen Emmel and Sharon Jones met Friday to weed and **make plans for the flower beds** here at Central, with the goal of making them less labor intensive. (Carol Norquist truly treated them as a labor of love and spent lots of time watering and maintaining.) SOME plants may be rehomed to YOUR garden (talk to Barbara, Karen or Sharon to learn more) and replaced with bushes and mulch to cut down on watering and weeding needs.



ELCA
CHURCHWIDE
ASSEMBLY



The Rev. Yebiel Curry
Presiding Bishop-elect of the ELCA



ELCA
CHURCHWIDE
ASSEMBLY



The Rev. Lucille "CeCee" Mills
Secretary-elect of the ELCA

Birthdays



Wish a happy birthday to:

Pia Meyer	8/1
Hedric Hanson	8/3
Cynthia Steen	8/5
Adam McDonald	8/6
James Brown	8/8
Karen Voris	8/10
Thomas Fairchild	8/13
Annette Iverson	8/14
Charlotte Jencks	8/14
Alexander Maurer	8/15

Emily Vandergon	8/15
Jeni Wilson-Dunk	8/15
Hilary Emmel	8/17
Patrick McCormick	8/19
Skyler Helgeson	8/20
Howard Thomas	8/20
Eva Wissmann	8/20
Emma Neslund	8/22
Sandi Zernia	8/22
Jonathan Ward	8/23
Larry Graham	8/24

Erling Westlien Jr	8/24
Teresa Bahn	8/26
Lindsay Paine	8/26
Lisa Bulkow	8/27
Joseph Falke	8/27
Bruce Newbold	8/27
Ella Kurzweg	8/28
Justin Beverlin	8/29
Michael Martin	8/29
Mary Solstad	8/30

Anniversaries

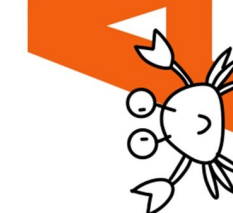


Wish a happy anniversary to:

<i>Bill & Elaine Wilson</i>	<i>8/11</i>
<i>Amber & Clint Terrill</i>	<i>8/16</i>
<i>Erika & Adam McDonald</i>	<i>8/18</i>
<i>Wes & Sue Tonkins</i>	<i>8/19</i>

<i>Todd & Liberty Helgeson</i>	<i>8/22</i>
<i>Austin & Eileen Kemink</i>	<i>8/22</i>
<i>Greta Sorenson & Bruce Newbold</i>	<i>8/28</i>
<i>Lisa & John Bulkow</i>	<i>8/30</i>

August 2025 – Central Lutheran Church

(Please note: This calendar lists church-related events only. Numerous community-related events take place in the building. To schedule space for an event, please contact the church office.)

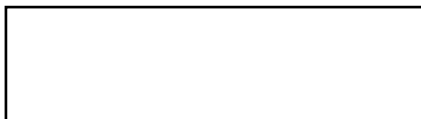
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 AUGUST						
3 8 am Church Council and Call Committee meeting 9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Bill Maury-Holmes	4  2 pm Women's Gather Bible Study	5 10:30 am Sarah Southside Circle @ Bells on Specking Road 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:15-5:45 pm Pickleball	6 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch	7 	8 	9 9 am - 2 pm Anchorage Farmers Market hospitality @ Kava's 
10 9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Susan Halvor	11 2 pm Women's Gather Bible Study	12 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball	13 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch	14 Noon Finance Committee	15 	16 9 am - 2 pm Anchorage Farmers Market hospitality 11 am - 2 pm Foot & Wound Clinic open Noon - 2 pm Listening Post open 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open
17 8 am Church Council 9:30 am WORSHIP with Deacon Linda Bender followed by SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	18 	19 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball	20 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch	21 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open	22 2:30 pm Caring Ministers Meeting @ Dahna's	23 9 am - 2 pm Anchorage Farmers Market hospitality
24 9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Kaila Armbruster	25 	26 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball	27 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch	28 by 3 pm Volunteers deliver evening meal to Clare House shelter	29 	30 9 am - 2 pm Anchorage Farmers Market hospitality
31 9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Kaila Armbruster						

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Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

August 2025



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Central Lutheran Church is here for you. We want to include you in our prayers, arrange for pastoral visits and announce information to the congregation, when appropriate. Please notify the church office (907-277-1622) as soon as possible when:

- A member of your family or a friend dies;
- Hospital or home visitation would be a blessing;
- You or someone you know wants to plan a baptism or wedding;
- You or someone you know is ill or grieving;
- You move or change your telephone numbers or email.

Please contact the church office if your address has changed or you no longer wish to be on our mailing list. Thank you!

Central Lutheran Prayer Chain will sincerely pray for your needs, joys and sorrows. Our prayer chain always welcomes new links. If you would like to contact the prayer chain with a prayer request or become a part of the chain, please contact Karen Emmel or the Church office.

