



Central Lutheran Church

the Messenger newsletter

Central Lutheran Church

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<http://www.centluth.org>

Pastor

Rev. Jeff Hackler johnhackler1957@gmail.com

Synodically Authorized Minister

Linda Bender centluthsam@gmail.com

Vicar / Intern Pastor

Zach Manzella zachmanzella@gmail.com

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

10:45 am Adult Ed (Jan 7, 14, 28)

10:45 am Sunday School (Jan 28)

Tuesdays

7 am "Jesus and John Wayne" study
(via zoom link)

Wednesdays

8:30 am Coffee Klatsch @ Kaladi Bros

Noon Bible text study

5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsal

7:30 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Chili for Kuwaa Night

Saturday, January 6, 4:30 pm

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 21, 10:45 am



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Cosmic Significance of Christmas

I recently found this brief devotion in a book by J. Heinrich Arnold (1913-1982) a leader in the Bruderhof communities in North America. Here Arnold pushes back against Christmas as the world understands it and helps us focus on the true significance of the incarnation.

The Cosmic Significance of Christmas

The way God sent his Son into the world is not to be explained or understood. John simply says that the Word became flesh (John 1:14). This Word is his love, and he poured it out through the Holy Spirit in Mary. Only in this sense can we begin to understand the mystery of the virgin birth.

When the angels appeared to the shepherds they said, "Unto you a child is born. Unto you a son is given" (Luke 2:11). We must take that to heart: to you a child is born. It is not just a matter of believing that a child is born in Bethlehem, but that a child is born to you. We must believe this quite personally: Jesus came for each of us.

Jesus was the suffering servant. His life went from birth in a lowly stable to death on a cross between two criminals for the sake of pure love alone. He was a true man, yet God; he was the Word that became flesh; he was the Son of God but also called himself the Son of Man.

Jesus Christ is the redeemer who comes to us weak and sinful men. He frees us from sin and demonic powers. He makes us true men. He is the healer who heals for nothing. He is the true vine, the living tree. He is the same yesterday, today, and in all eternity. Jesus is the soul of compassion, the friend of man, the caller to new life. He is the true and good shepherd, the king of God's kingdom. He is called the wonderful

counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, and prince of peace.

We must experience Jesus in our hearts and souls. Yet still more is demanded: we must experience him as Lord over all things, king over all principalities and worlds of God. We must concentrate our hearts, minds, and souls on the vision of his kingdom and on him, the coming one.

It is our prayer that we may see the real Christ. We pray that he be revealed to us first as he was – a baby born in a stable at Bethlehem; and then a condemned man hanging on the cross between two criminals at Golgotha; as he is today – the head of all things, especially of his church (Eph. 5:23); and as he will be at the end of time – the one who judges the quick and the dead, the bridegroom of the great festival in the kingdom of God.

Peace, Pastor Jeff



**4:30 pm Saturday,
January 6, 2024
@ Central Lutheran**

You are invited to bring a chili, salad side, or corn bread to share. We'll collect a free-will offering to support the Kuwaa Mission in maintaining clean water wells and supporting medical clinics with the Kuwaa people in Liberia.

A New Year and New Roads to Travel

Blessings and peace to all as we begin the new year. The season of Epiphany reminds us of the journey that the magi made to worship the newborn king. The infant Jesus wasn't just sent to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds, he was sent to all people. The light has truly come to the world, one that is broken and in need of peace. May we reach out and share our faith in Christ, the true light, with family, friends, the poor, and marginalized.



the letters are the Latin blessing of "Christ, bless this house" or the legendary names of the magi. (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar).

As of January 8, I will begin my internship at St. Mark's Lutheran and LSSA for 6 months. I am excited about new opportunities to learn and minister in my diaconate journey. Please keep me in your prayers as I begin this next step in ministry. I will miss being with you and sharing worship.

On January 6th for the celebration of Epiphany, many families share a blessing on their home that Christ may enter in and be welcomed. The tradition is to write 20+CMB+24 in chalk over the main door. (I use a small piece of paper instead of chalk). The numbers represent the year, and

Hunter and I are still out walking every day and would love company anytime.

Linda Bender - SAM and diaconate candidate
Hunter - canine contributor and walking buddy

Birthdays

Wish a happy birthday to:

Anne McCormick 1/1
 Pam Tesche 1/2
 Veronica Wagner 1/3
 Sue Tonkins 1/5
 Eileen Kemink 1/5
 Frederick Tesche 1/6
 Ottilie Bergh 1/6
 Cathie Nicolet 1/7
 Bob Voris 1/8
 Kristin Coady 1/9
 Jim Emmel 1/9
 Dale Huelskoetter 1/9
 Jane Hanson 1/11
 Craig Carlson 1/12
 Matthew Amundsen 1/13

Steven Hanson 1/14
 Britta Helm 1/14
 Betsy Cooper 1/14
 Mariah Graham 1/15
 Karsten Hall 1/15
 Laura Paulson 1/18
 Ingrid Kelly Alexakis 1/19
 Andreas Nordgaard 1/19
 Adam Bryant 1/19
 Sandra McKinney 1/20
 Ann Solberg 1/20
 Sharon Phillips 1/21
 Marcia Brown 1/21
 Madeleine Bulkow-Macy 1/22
 Nelson Priddy 1/23
 Muriel Furman 1/24

Edward Sanders 1/24
 Fredrik Lyle 1/25
 Lori Boecker 1/25
 Lise Falskow 1/25
 Nicole Soiseth 1/26
 Michael Graham 1/26
 Katelyn Zernia 1/26
 Lottie Marshall 1/26
 Timothy Thorsness 1/27
 Robert Kiesel 1/27
 Anna Boltz 1/29
 Jan Adasiak 1/30
 Dexter Bahn 1/30
 Lindsay Brown 1/31
 Haddi Lofgren 1/31
 Brogan Nieder 1/31

Anniversaries

Wish a happy anniversary to:

Ingrid and Howard Thomas 1/4
Kathy and Gene Dale 1/6
Rae and Kaare Elde 1/7

Vicar's Corner

Dear Central Lutheran,
Grace and peace to you in this new year.

When I was a boy the time between Christmas Day and New Year's Day was all about the compiling and announcing of Top 10 lists or Top 100 lists by those experts, who were so fortunate as to have the job of putting those lists together. Whether it was the top 100 songs for the year or the top 10 movies or top 10 books of the year, those lists fascinated me. Those lists often seemed to affirm my very existence through the sharing of that music or those movies or those books with other people in my culture. I felt connected to people all over the country just because we listened to the same music or watched those movies or read those books. One year I remember listening to the countdown of the top 100 songs on the radio at the house when my dad said we had to go visit some relatives. So I waited until one song ended and then I ran out to the car and made my dad put on the same radio station so that I could continue to listen to the songs as we drove to my aunt's house. I didn't want to miss a song, but I had to take a break for the family visit.

While the Top 100 and Top 10 lists still intrigue me today, it's that idea of commonality shared with other people and that feeling of connectedness along with the curiosity of



learning from others that has me anticipating my trip to Tanzania. My understanding is that the Lutheran Church in Tanzania - brought over by Germans - is now an indigenous Lutheran expression of Christianity in Tanzania. I look forward to seeing the commonalities, but also to experience the different ways of both worshipping God and talking about God. Also I look forward to experiencing how the gospel is shared in a different context, and how that context shapes and encourages people to live out their lives of faith in Tanzania.

As this new year starts up, new events and adventures await us on our journey. What will God have in store for us? I am headed to Tanzania from the 2nd through the 18th of January. So, while I won't see many of you for awhile, I will keep you in my prayers. I am grateful for your prayers as well as my experiences with all of you during my internship. I hope to learn and experience as much as I can in Tanzania and then share some of that with you at a potluck or presentation after my return. God be with you 'til we meet again.

Yours in Christ,
Vicar Zach

Lutheran Social Services of Alaska



As we stand at the threshold of a new year, I am filled with gratitude and joy for the unwavering support and commitment that has been shown to Lutheran Social Services of Alaska. Your generosity, compassion, and dedication have truly made a difference in the lives of countless individuals and families, echoing the teachings of love and services that define our faith.

A big thank you to the wonderful organizers and attendees of the **Lutheran Women's Advent Brunch**. The financial support and the thoughtful offering of diapers and wipes have had a significant impact on the well-being of the families we serve. Your generosity has left an indelible mark on the lives of these clients.

We again thank many for the help with distributing **Christmas Stockings** to the children of our Food Pantry clients. We must thank Janet Franklin and Rosemary Perry who have for years continued to sew these stockings and send them our way from their homes in the lower 48. That is why we haven't had to ask for as many stockings in the last two years. If anyone knows these ladies, please give me a call as I would like to learn more about them. The collaborative effort to provide Christmas stockings filled with a nativity story book, candy and a toy demonstrates the spirit of community and care.

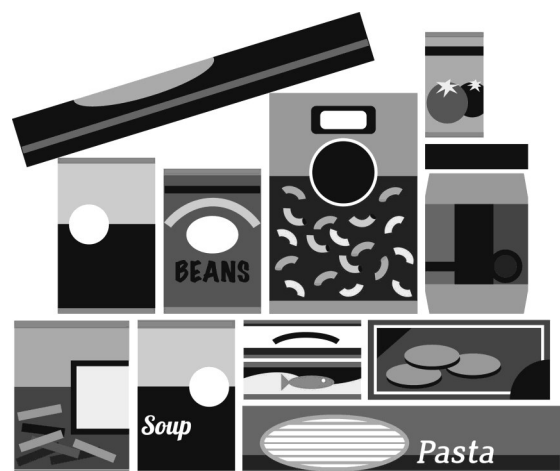
As we approach the 2024 Alaska Permanent Dividend application period, I am reaching out to you on behalf of LSSA with a humble request for your support. We are excited to share that last year, through the generosity of donors, we received close to \$12,000 in donations via the

Pick, Click, Give campaign. These contributions played a pivotal role in furthering our mission to "Providing hope by responding to human need through services that sustain and transform lives". To make a donation through the Pick, Click, Give campaign, simply visit the PFD official registration site during the application period that ends March 31, 2024, and select Lutheran Social Services of Alaska as your chosen nonprofit recipient.

Together, let us make 2024 a year of compassion, unity, and transformative love. May the Lord's blessings be upon each one of you, and may our collective efforts continue to be a testament to the power of faith in action.

Wishing you a joyous and blessed New Year!

Alan Budahl, Executive Director
LSSA - Lutheran Social Services of Alaska
1303 W. 33rd Ave. Anchorage, AK 99503
907-272-0643 www.lssalaska.org



FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

*Our mission is to provide HOPE by responding
to human need through services that SUSTAIN and TRANSFORM lives.*

Study:

Beginning January 7, Craig Carlson will lead our next **Adult Ed class** each Sunday at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary (and Zoom.us) with a focus on The City of God by Augustine. No need to read ahead.

Book Group is reading The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World. Join friends in discussion on Monday, January 15, at 4:30 pm.

The study of Jesus and John Wayne by Kristin Kobes Du Mez meets via Zoom.us at 7 am Tuesdays

Central Seniors and friends - **coffee klatsche** every Wednesday at 8:30 am at Kaladi Brothers Coffee on Brayton Drive and a zoom component at 9 am—contact Hedric Hanson for login

Wednesdays at Noon, a group studies the **lectionary Bible texts** for next Sunday

Ladies - our monthly **Gather Bible study** meets at 2 pm on 2nd Mondays, next on January 9, and you're invited! Bring your *Gather* magazine or share ours.

Gentlemen - **Breakfast & Bible Study** meets next on Saturday, January 6, 9 am @ Flo's Pancake House. All welcome!

Fellowship:

A new **Dine with Nine** will begin in January. RSVP to the Church office to join a restaurant group or a home dining group. About nine people will meet monthly for a shared meal and conversation.

Cook up your favorite chili recipe to share and come to the **Chili for Kuwaa** event at Central on Saturday, January 6, at 4:30 pm. We'll collect free-will donations to support clean water and medical clinic projects for the Kuwaa people in Liberia.

Sarah Southside Circle meets first Tuesdays for fellowship, next on January 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 or lower parking lot, 4:45-6:15 pm. Text Christi at 646.710.0805 for details. All levels welcome.

Serve:

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

Year-round, we collect **shelf-stable foods for LSSA** Food Pantry. Our January focus is boxed milk (whole, skim, or plant-based) and dry milk.

Our **Helping Hands Clothing Closet** continues to welcome visitors about eight days monthly who are in need of gloves, blankets, backpacks, winter 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.

Little help? rehab the west doorknob to the downstairs kitchen; the red cart (currently in the Community Room) needs tightening and replacement of screws, bolts and washers; repaint the pastor's office (it's clean and ready for prep and paint).

Eva Wissmann and Judy Bagley are continuing a **kitchen cleaning and organizing** project. Join them downstairs on January 17 at 10 am or pick a 2nd time.

Fourth Thursdays of the month, we provide the evening meal to the residents of Clare House women's and children's shelter. Watch our weekly announcements for your opportunities to provide a part of the meal. *Thank you to our financial donors for supporting the December meal—gyro night!*

Each Wednesday night, four Central volunteers staff the **Emergency Cold Weather Shelter for Families** overnight and provide the evening meal. New volunteers welcome to ask Judith Muller or Steve Lambert questions to learn more.

News:

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be Sunday, January 21. Our Annual Report will be available via PDF or printed copy on Sunday, January 14, so that means that all reports and articles for the **Annual Report** should be to the Church office no later than January 10.

The **elevator renovation** is under way! Thank you to Kodiak Electric, TK Elevator and C&T Fire who are here every day this week running wiring to the new fire panel and the expanded grid of smoke detectors and other sensors, & modernizing our elevator.

Lisa Nelson would like to announce the **marriage of Ingrid Nelson Kelly and Zach Alexakis** on November 25 in Hawaii. Congratulations!

THANK YOU to Gordy Nelson for chair repairs. THANK YOU to Steve Lambert, Carol Norquist and Ken Helm for work on the artificial Christmas tree and lights. THANK YOU to Rey Nelvis and family for all of the cleaning, shoveling, trash removal, and keeping our facility beautiful and ready for our many services, projects, and special events. THANK YOU to Dave & Dianne Hillemeier, Phyllis Rude and others bringing in more Helping Hands Clothing Closet donations. THANK YOU to Gordy Nelson for ice-chipping work to keep our front entry safe and chair repairs. THANK YOU to Jean Boecker, Anita Soiseth, Jane Hanson, Sue Tonkins & Sandy McKinney for putting the newsletters together for mailing. THANK YOU to the Altar Guild for changing out banners and paraments and setting up the Advent wreath. THANK YOU to all those working to set up the Three Wise men and the Sanctuary Christmas tree. THANK YOU to Judy Bagley and Eva Wissmann for working to keep the kitchens clean and neatly organized. THANK YOU to Wes Tonkins for grey chairs repairs and "footie" replacements. THANK YOU to Ken & Vickie Helm for putting lights on the Sanctuary Christmas tree. THANK YOU to Larry Helgeson, Steve Hanson, Wes Tonkins, Dennis Ricker and Vicar Zach Manzella for work on hall ceiling access hatches that will aid our fire detection system upgrade. THANK YOU to Carol Coady and Denny & Judy Lynch and others bringing donations of food for the LSSA Food Pantry. THANK YOU to the Log Cabin Quilters who, as a part of their holiday party, brought in donations of clothing, winter gear, and food for our Helping Hands Clothing Closet and LSSA Food Pantry ministries - what an awesome donation! THANK YOU to West Coast Paper for donating a case of toilet paper.



Worship & Study

- † Sundays 9:30 am worship service
- † Sundays 10:45 am adult ed class begins anew with Craig Carlson leading discussions of Augustine's The City of God (Jan 7, 14, 28)
- † Sundays School for elementary-school age youth is 10:45 on Sunday, January 28, this month
- † Tuesdays 7 am study of Jesus and John Wayne by Kristin Kobes Du Mez continues with Pastor Jeff via our usual Zoom link
- † Central Seniors and friends - coffee klatsche every Wednesday at 8:30 am at Kaladi Brothers Coffee on Brayton Drive and a zoom component at 9 am—contact Hedric Hanson for login
- † Wednesdays Noon lectionary text study
- † Ladies - Gather study meets at 2 pm on 2nd Mondays, next on January 8
- † Gentlemen - Breakfast & Bible Study meets next on Saturday, January 6, 9 am @ Flo's Pancake House
- † Sarah Southside Circle meets first Tuesdays, next on February 6, for coffee at 10:30 am at Bells on Specking Road. All are welcome!
- † February 14 will be Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent

Central Lutheran is praying for...

January ELCA Alaska prayer partner: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Nome

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




Holt Priddy (Nelson Priddy's father), Mimi Barzen (Anita Soiseth's sister-in-law), Mike Padden, Joyce Delamater (Rebecca Schaeffer's mother), Alice Bethka, Walli Olive, Connie Rome, Debbie Laflamme, Herb Eckmann, Robert Garza (Victoria Braun's father), Kara Dale (daughter of Gene & Kathy Dale)

Thank you to Julie, Stacey, Carol, Steve, Gordy, Pastor Jeff, Kathy, and Kristin & Ingrid, and all those who joined us, brought great potluck foods to share, set up and took down tables and chairs, crafted, sang along, decorated cookies and cards, and made our Advent Festival and Potluck so tasty and fun!



January 2024 - 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.)

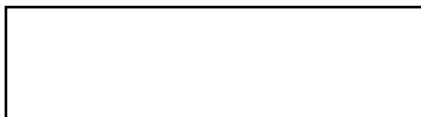
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Vicar Zach traveling 1/2-18</p>	<p>1 Happy New Year! Church office closed</p>	<p>2 7 am <u>Jesus & John</u> Wayne 10:30 am Sarah Southside Circle @ Bells on Specking Road 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>3 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch 11 am Staff Meeting Noon - 1 pm Text Study overnight Emergency Shelter @ ECWS Duplex</p>	<p>4 2 - 4 pm Sledding & Cocoa Party @ Kincaid Chalet for ELCA AK youth group members </p>	<p>5 9:30 am Altar Guild resets the Sanctuary for Epiphany 2:30 pm Caring Ministers Meeting @ Dahna's</p>	<p>6 9 am Men's Breakfast @ Flo's Pancake House Kuwa 4:30 pm Chili Night for Kuwa </p>
<p>7 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 am WORSHIP 10:35 am Pallet Homes presentation w Julie Graham of God with Craig Carlson 10:45 am Adult Ed <u>The City</u> of God with Craig Carlson 4:30 pm Confirmation Class @ Lutheran Church of Hope</p>	<p>8 ASD School resumes 2 pm Women's <i>Gather</i> Bible Study</p>	<p>9 7 am <u>Jesus & John</u> Wayne 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 1 pm ELCA AK Youth Planning meeting 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>10 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch 11 am Staff Meeting Noon - 1 pm Text Study 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir Rehearsal overnight Emergency Shelter @ ECWS Duplex</p>	<p>11 Noon Finance Committee 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open</p>	<p>12 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open</p>	<p>13 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open</p>
<p>14 9:30 am WORSHIP 10:45 am Adult Ed <u>The City</u> of God with Craig Carlson 4:30 pm Confirmation Class @ Lutheran Church of Hope</p>	<p>15 MLK Jr. holiday ASD No School Church office closed 4:30 pm Book Group discusses <u>The Book of</u> <u>Joy: Lasting Happiness in</u> <u>a Changing World</u></p>	<p>16 7 am <u>Jesus & John</u> Wayne 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>17 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch 10 am Kitchen Cleaning 11 am Staff Meeting Noon - 1 pm Text Study 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir Rehearsal overnight Emergency Shelter @ ECWS Duplex</p>	<p>18 Noon Finance Committee 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open</p>	<p>19 11 am - 2 pm Foot & Wound Clinic open 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open</p>	<p>20 11 am - 2 pm Foot & Wound Clinic open 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open</p>
<p>21 8 am Church Council 9:30 am WORSHIP 10:45 am Annual Congregational Meeting 4:30 pm Confirmation Class @ Lutheran Church of Hope</p>	<p>22 7 am Early Risers Study 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>23 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch 11 am Staff Meeting Noon - 1 pm Text Study 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir Rehearsal overnight Emergency Shelter @ ECWS Duplex</p>	<p>24 by 3 pm Volunteers deliver evening meal to Clare House shelter</p>	<p>25 2:30 pm Caring Ministers Meeting @ Dahna's</p>	<p>26 Vicar Zach traveling 1/27-2/3</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 9:30 am WORSHIP 10:45 am Adult Ed <u>The City</u> of God with Craig Carlson 10:45 am Sunday School for school-age kids 4:30 pm Confirmation Class @ Lutheran Church of Hope</p>	<p>29 7 am Early Risers Study 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>30 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch 11 am Staff Meeting Noon - 1 pm Text Study 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir Rehearsal overnight Emergency Shelter @ ECWS Duplex</p>	<p>31 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch 11 am Staff Meeting Noon - 1 pm Text Study 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir Rehearsal overnight Emergency Shelter @ ECWS Duplex</p>	<p></p>		

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Rev. Jeff Hackler, Pastor
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January 2024



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 (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.

