



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>

Pastor

We look forward to welcoming an Interim pastor soon

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: Final Transitions

4:30 pm Confirmation Class

Mondays

7 am Lamb 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

Save the date: Sunday, May 5, we'll share a potluck at 10:45 am to celebrate the completion of Vicar Zach's internship with us and his May 12 graduation from Seminary



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

From Lutheran Hour Ministries:

“So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. (John 19:16b-18)

It feels right to me that Jesus is crucified on the cross in the middle. There He hangs, between two thieves—among sinners, as He has always been for us. Jesus does not keep Himself separate from us. He does not stand off to the side, a little distant, to avoid getting involved in our mess. No, He is right there with us—in the middle, suffering with us.

But He does more than that. He is there within reach, where we can see and hear Him. We can cry out to Him for help and be sure He listens. What religion has a God like this, who comes so near to us that He shares our very death with us? Who has a Savior who chooses to leave heaven to hang on a cross in public shame, surrounded by the people He came to save? And our sins hang on Him—all our guilt, all our shame. Isaiah said, “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; ... upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4a, 5b).

Jesus is with us, even now. And because He died and rose again for us, we who trust in Him will be with Him forever in His kingdom.

WE PRAY: Lord, I am so glad that You are with me always. Amen.”

Please thank Pastor Dan Bollerud this Sunday for Sharing Easter with us.



Elevator

Thanks to all those who helped make the elevator and fire detection system installation a big success. The original project was estimated to cost \$265,000. The final project cost came in at \$244,576. This represents a savings of \$20,000. Much of the reduction in cost is thanks to all the volunteer labor used on the project. If we had to use contractors, for all the man hours volunteered, the project would cost would have exceeded \$265,000. Thanks go to the following people: Mark Vandergon, Allen Smith, Shane Smith, Larry Helgeson, Wes Tonkins, John Marshall, Steve Hanson, Dennis Ricker, and Vicar Zach Manzella.

We still have outstanding pledges of \$56,798 so please stay faithful to your pledges so that we can pay off the project loan.

- Steve Lambert

A banner for Holy Week. The text 'Holy Week' is written in a large, cursive, light green font. Below it, in a smaller, sans-serif font, is 'at Central Lutheran Church & Alaska Native Lutheran Church'. Below that is 'Worship with us at 15th & Cordova'. The times are listed: 'Palm Sunday 9:30 am & 2 pm', 'Maundy Thursday 7 pm, Good Friday 7 pm', and 'Easter Sunday 9:30 am & 2 pm'. At the bottom, there is a green bar with the website 'www.centluth.org' and the address '1420 Cordova Street'. To the left of the text is a small icon of a globe with a cross.

Easter Greetings

A blessed Easter season to all. I am now half way through internship. St Mark is also in the call process since Pastor Carol George is on her way to her new call in Arizona. It was an honor and privilege to lead worship on Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday.



I hope you are all well and getting outside on these warmer days. Hunter wishes it wasn't so sloppy but I remind him that even slush is part of God's creation.

Blessings

Linda - SAM and diaconate candidate

Hunter - canine contributor and study buddy

At LSSA we are preparing for the first gift distribution in the Santa for Seniors program.

Vicar's Corner

Grace and peace to you.

I am writing during holy week in anticipation of the resurrection. An event in which God does the unexpected. An event in which God's grace outstrips our worthiness. An event that is core to who we are as Christians.



It makes me wonder about what expectations we hold today for our society, our country, our world, and how will God do unexpected things in this day and age? In some ways, it gives me a sense of hope, a sense of excitement, to look for or listen for the way that God is doing something unexpected today. And maybe the

When I think about this, it's that idea of the unexpected that really strikes me at this moment. Jesus, the Messiah, created expectations in the people of the day that he would be a warrior king, defeating the Roman Empire, pushing the Romans out of Judea. But Jesus's ministry was unexpected with its focus on serving the neighbor in love not focused on a violent overthrow of an oppressor.

real issue is that I just need to listen more deeply or see more broadly to observe the things that God is at work on in my life. In this season of Easter maybe we should all ask the question "How is it that God is doing something unexpected in my life?"

Yours in Christ,
Vicar Zach

On March 10, 2024, the members of Central voted to allow In Our Backyard to use Central Lutheran Church property for its mission to provide safe interim housing and connections to support services for our houseless senior neighbors as they work to obtain a more permanent home. Please take a look at our website at



inourbackyard-ak.org, to learn about volunteer opportunities and how to donate.

Our team is made up of:

Julie Greene-Graham, Board Chair

Carol Norquist, Treasurer

Betty Hertz, Board member

and consultants Wes Tonkins, Stan Olsen, and Hank Koegel.

Steve Lambert, Vice Chair

Betsy Baker, Secretary

- Julie



Members of In Our Backyard, Central staff, and Central's Church council toured the 3rd Avenue Resource & Navigation Center, Brother Francis Shelter, and Complex Care Shelter on March 26. It was a great opportunity to see our community partners in action: providing resources and low-barrier shelter to those in need. We had lots of questions about how they do what they do, and how their experience can shape our planning for In Our Backyard.

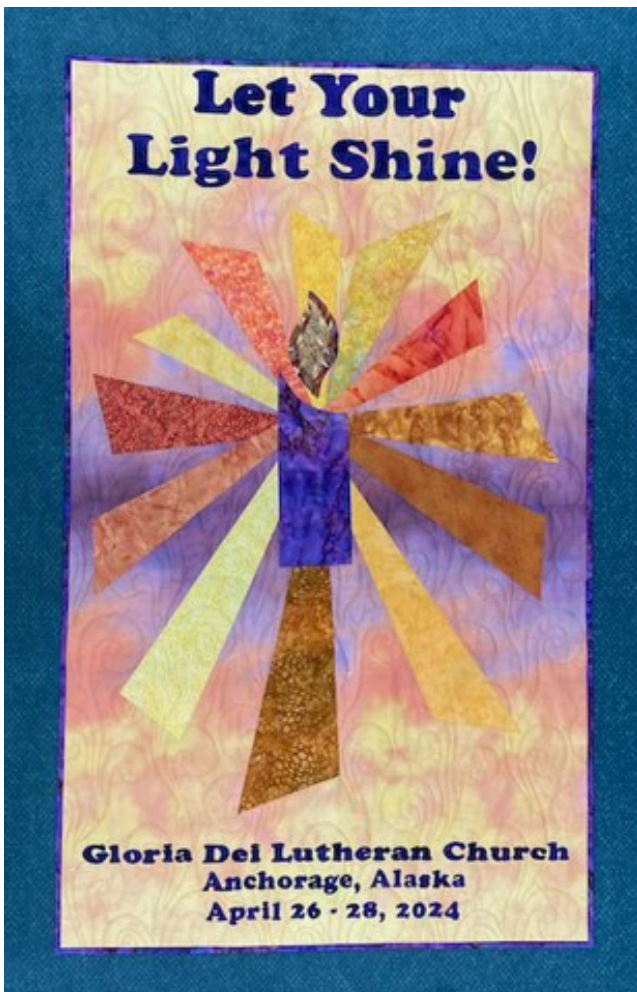
Worship & Study

- † Sundays 9:30 am worship service
- † Sundays 10:45 am adult ed class starts April 7 with Final Transitions: looking at wills, bequests, funeral plans, advance directives, executors, insurance, burials and more.
- † Mondays 7 am study of Lamb by Christopher Moore continues with Vicar Zach 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, all are welcome to bring lunch or coffee & discuss the lessons
- † Ladies - *Gather* Bible study meets at 2 pm on 2nd Mondays, next on April 8, in person & via zoom.us
- † Gentlemen - Breakfast & Bible Study meets next on Saturday, April 6, 9 am @ Flo's Pancake House
- † Sarah Southside Circle meets usually on first Tuesdays, *but this month will be April 9*, for coffee at 10:30 am at Bells on Specking Road. All are welcome!

Preaching schedule for April:

April 7 and May 5 Vicar Zach Manzella, Intern Pastor

April 14, 21, and 28 Rev. Dan Bollerud



The ELCA Alaska Synod will hold the annual **Synod Assembly** here in Anchorage at Gloria Dei, April 26-27-28. This year will be important, with Bishop Shelley completing her term and a new bishop being elected.

If you'll be available to assist during the event with either loaning a vehicle or carpooling folks to Gloria Dei, please find the link in our weekly eNews to offer support.

Do keep our voting representatives in your prayers during the Assembly: Vicar Zach Manzella, Birte Eliassen, John Bulkow and David Braun.

Birthdays

Wish a happy birthday to:

Audrey Phillips 4/2
Sara Dale 4/2
Amanda Denn 4/3
Lee Watne 4/3
Eric Phillips 4/4
Acadia Graham 4/6
Eric Dale 4/6
Arden Forbes 4/7
Alyssa Phillips 4/7
Benjamin Birch 4/8
Freddy Graham 4/8
Tom Falskow 4/8
Dottie Reece 4/9
Shirley Strusz 4/9

Ella Preziosi Priddy 4/10
Juliana Sexauer 4/11
Rey Nelvis 4/11
David Demetz 4/12
Paula Zawodny 4/12
Julie Graham 4/13
Jan Beverlin 4/14
Ava Brown 4/14
Christian Williams 4/14
Zachary Voris 4/15
Diane Preziosi 4/16
Letty Jocius 4/18
Hans Lofgren 4/18
Amy Rader 4/19
Megan Cook 4/20

Craig Bauer 4/21
Molly McManamin 4/21
Donald Bruno 4/21
Christiana Strand 4/22
Donna Luiten 4/25
Eli Neslund 4/26
Ethan Zawodny 4/26
Paul Harris 4/26
Gene Dale 4/27
John Bulkow 4/29
Vickie Helm 4/29
Doris Petersen 4/30
Henrik Strand 4/30

Anniversaries

Wish a happy anniversary to:

Doug & Joyce Lofgren 4/4

Martin & Kierstan Wohlgemuth 4/26



Saturdays
9 am - 2 pm

May 11 - October 12

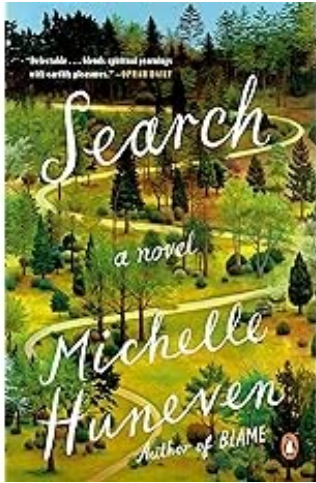
at 15th & Cordova

Free parking

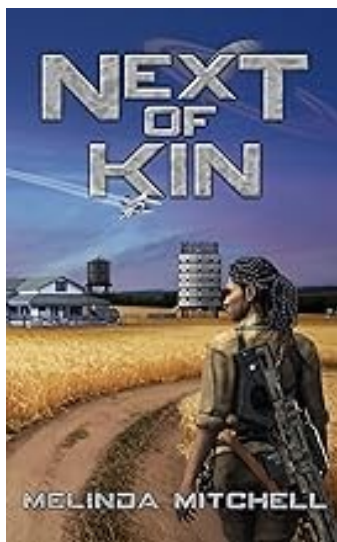
Alaska grown local foods

Study:

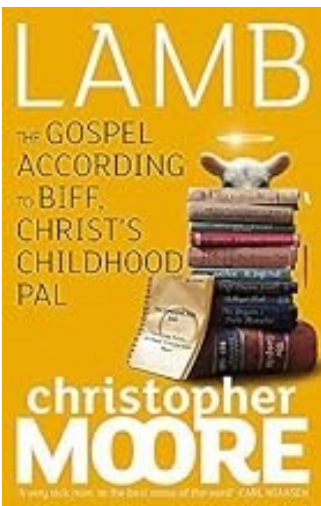
Adult Ed class begins anew on Sunday, April 7, with Final Transitions: looking at wills, bequests, funeral plans, advance directives, executors, insurance, burials and more. Join special guest presenters from Hospice of Anchorage, Pillar Financial, Janssen Funeral Homes and more each Sunday at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary or via Zoom.us.



Book Group is reading Search: A Novel by Michelle Huneven. This story of a church search committee is written “with the clarity of both warmth and wit.” Discuss on Monday, April 15, at 4:30 pm.



Order ahead the May read, Next of Kin by Melinda Mitchell, a sci-fi retelling of the book of Ruth. It is available in paperback or digital versions from Barnes and Noble and Amazon.



The Early Risers group is reading Lamb by Christopher Moore via Zoom.us at 7 am Mondays. Use Central’s regular worship and study zoom link, meeting ID 963 8911 9335 and call the church office if you need the password.

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 info.

Wednesdays at Noon, a group studies the **lectionary Bible texts** for next Sunday. New folks welcome!

Ladies, our monthly **Gather Bible study** meets at 2 pm on 2nd Mondays, next on April 8, and you’re invited! Bring your *Gather* magazine or share ours.

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

Fellowship:

Sarah Southside Circle meets first Tuesdays for fellowship, however this month will be second Tuesday, April 9, for coffee at 10:30 am at Bells on Specking Road. All are welcome!

5th - 12th grade youth are invited to **Glacier Bible Camp** in Juneau this summer, July 29 - August 3. Cost to attend is just \$50 plus your flight arrangements to Juneau -- do note that Deacon Amanda of Amazing Grace plans to chaperone several youth on the flights there and back. Camp is sponsored by the Lutheran Southeast Alaska Camping Association.

Learn more and register at <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/8177357>

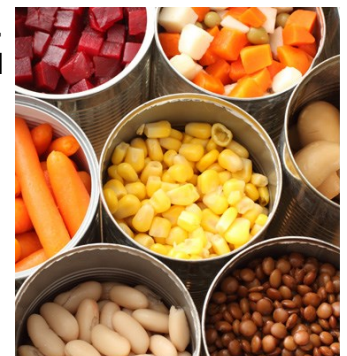
Beer & Hymns, the LSSA fundraiser, returns on Sunday, April 21, 6 - 8 pm at O’Brady’s on Huffman. Come sing favorite hymns with friends! The restaurant donates a portion of their sales during the event and donations are collected while we sing, visit, and enjoy the evening.

Join our multi-generational group of **pickleball** players. We play most Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall or lower parking lot, 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!

Seww:

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 April focus is canned and dried fruits and vegetables.



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. *We have several Tuesdays in April that need an extra volunteer due to travel schedules. Can you give an hour or two?*

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 Carol Coady, Dahna Graham, Sue Tonkins and Becky Schaeffer for hams and potatoes on Thursday, March 28. Donor funds purchased the sides and dessert.

Eva Wissmann and Judy Bagley have been meeting monthly to **clean and organize our kitchens**. They'll miss the April date due to travel; might you have an hour or two to meet up with a friend and ensure all is in order? RSVP to the Church office so we can run the "self-clean" cycle on the stoves ahead of time,

Each Wednesday night, four Central volunteers staff the **Emergency Cold Weather Shelter for Families** overnight and provide the evening meal. The site will close for the summer on April 30.

News:

We will celebrate the life of **Lenore Clinton** on Saturday, April 6, at 2 pm here at Central, with a reception to follow. Read her obituary in the Anchorage Daily News on Easter Sunday.

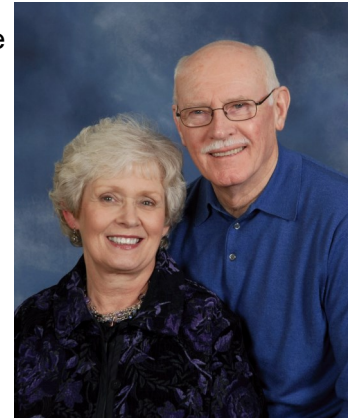


Former longtime member of Central Lutheran Church **Brenda Joy Engelby Laukonis**, 84, died on March 17th, 2024 at Banner Casa Grande Medical Center. She is survived by her husband of ten years, four children, thirteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Her late husband of forty nine years Ron Engelby was also a long time member of Central Lutheran Church.



Remembering **Dave Hillemeier**

Dave passed away Tuesday, March 19. Dianne and daughters Cindi, Shannon and Lisa and their families are planning a memorial service in a few weeks here at Central Lutheran. Dave has been a member here at Central since 1982. Dave and Dianne were married more than 54 years. They traveled extensively to cheer on their grandchildren in recent years. Look for a full obituary in the coming weeks.



We have **prayer shawls** available, with thanks to a dedicated team of knitters and crocheters, that may be picked up from the Church office and given to those in need of extra prayer or comfort due to illness, grief, or any other need. Wrap a friend in prayer.

Central Lutheran is praying for...

April ELCA Alaska prayer partner: Joy Lutheran Church, Eagle River

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

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), Fred Shepard (Debbie Pankow's stepdad), Bob Reupke, Lenore Clinton, Faye Gilmore (David Dale's life partner), Brenda Engelby, Dave Hillemeier

April 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.)

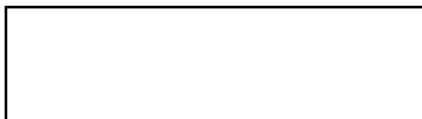
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church office closed (Easter observed) 7 am Early Risers Study	2 Sarah Southside Circle moved to next week 1 pm ELCA AK Youth Planning meeting 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open	3 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch 11 am Staff Meeting Noon - 1 pm Text Study 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir Rehearsal overnight Emergency Shelter @ ECWS Duplex	4	5 	6 9 am Men's Breakfast @ Flo's Pancake House 2 pm Lenore Clinton funeral service and reception
7 8:30 am Worship Committee 9:30 am WORSHIP with Vicar Zach Manzella 10:45 am Adult Ed 4:30 pm Confirmation Class @ Central	8 7 am Early Risers Study 2 pm Women's Gather Bible Study	9 10:30 am Sarah Southside Circle @ Bells on Specking Road 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball	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	11	12	13
14 9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Dan Bollerud 10:45 am Adult Ed 4:30 pm Confirmation Class @ Central	15  7 am Early Risers Study 4:30 pm Book Group discusses Search: A Novel by Michelle Huneven	16 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball	17 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	18 Noon Finance Committee 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open	19 ASD No School <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Vicar Zach in Bethel 4/19-21</div>	20 11 am - 2 pm Foot & Wound Clinic open 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open
21 8 am Church Council 9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Dan Bollerud 10:45 am Adult Ed 4:30 pm Confirmation Class @ Central 6-8 pm Beer & Hymns LSSA Fundraiser @ O'Brady's on Huffman	22 7 am Early Risers Study	23 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Pastors Collegium 4/23 - 25</div>	24 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	25 by 3 pm Volunteers deliver evening meal to Clare House shelter	26 2:30 pm Caring Ministers Meeting @ Dahna's <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Synod Assembly @ Gloria Dei Lutheran, Anchorage</div>	27
28 9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Dan Bollerud 10:45 am Adult Ed 4:30 pm Confirmation Class @ Central Save the date: May 5 Potluck to celebrate Vicar Zach's graduation	29 7 am Early Risers Study	30 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball Last day of Emergency Shelter for families @ ECWS Duplex—closed for summer	 <h1>APRIL</h1>			

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1420 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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April 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.

