

the Messenger newsletter

Central Lutheran Church

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2024

Pastor

Interim Pastor Mark Galbraith centluth@gmail.com

Vicar

Zach Manzella zachmanzella@gmail.com

Synodically Authorized Minister

Linda Bender centluthsam@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

Tuesdays

7 am Early AM Study (9/10, 9/17, 9/24) 6:30 pm Divine Drama (9/17, 9/24)

Wednesdays

Noon Divine Drama (9/18, 9/25) 5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsals 7 pm Choir rehearsals

Anchorage Farmers Market open 9 am - 2 pm Saturdays, May 11 - October 12

ASWO Women's Retreat, 9/13-15



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Gods beloved people:

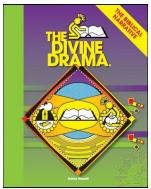
So much to celebrate and to be excited for!
First of all thank you so very much for everybody who hosted the "Meet-n-Greets", as well as those of you who hosted me for meals and conversation in your homes.

Several have taken place already, and they really were engaging times of fellowship, conversation, good food, and community building.

It is so very helpful for me, as an interim pastor, to get to know you, the great and holy people of God, in broader settings outside of the walls of our church campus. My tapestry of you gets woven all the more fully, and community building is always a good and blessed thing.

Mark Galbraith
Intentional Interim Pastor

Let's keep them going throughout the year!



Second, I have been so encouraged by the sign-up response for "The Divine Drama" survey of the Bible course that will be launched very soon. It has been heartening for me to see that Central Lutheran Church places a high value on adult faith formation, and there is a strong tradition in history of that. Anything we can do to build on that cornerstone of a congregations ministry is vital for a congregation to grow in understanding God's mission goals and passions, summed up in that well-known and oftused (yes, I'm sure once again as football season is at our doorstep) passage, John 3:16.

The Divine Drama is the singular tool that help pull the Bible together for me like no other resource ever has, and as why I am so excited to offer it, as I have each setting I have served. There is still time to order materials from solapublishing.com

The **Mission Study Listening Sessions Small Groups** are on the horizon! Before they are launched, I will be meeting with CLC members who will serve as small group meeting facilitators and scribes, to train them in the process (which is delightfully simple!) and then they will commence to scheduling dates, times, and locations of the small groups they will host and facilitate.

The purpose of the small groups will be to give congregants the opportunity to bring their voice towards the shape of the next chapter of ministry for CLC. The small groups are not for decision- making, debate, point counterpoint, planning, nothing of the sort. Those processes will happen when your next pastor comes to serving ministry with CLC.

The purpose of the small groups will be for everybody to have a chance for a sharing and listening! Everyone will have a chance to reflect and respond to the following questions:

"What makes your heart sing about Central Lutheran Church?"

continues on next page

"What are the challenges and opportunities facing Central Lutheran Church for the next chapter of ministry?"

"What are the mission and guiding goals CLC feels led by the Holy Spirit to embraced to shape and define the next chapter of ministry?"

"What needs to change about how CLC does ministry in order for these mission and guiding goals to blossom?"

"What are the gifts for ministry (not personal qualities!) the next rostered minister of Word and Sacrament brings to the table to partner with CLC for these mission goals to become reality?"

I share these questions now so that you can begin thinking and reflecting on them for your participation in these groups.

In these small groups, everyone will have the chance to respond to these questions while everybody else listens as each person speaks, without brainstorming, debate, challenging or interjecting behaviors, none of the sort, from the other members of the small group. These groups have a very different focus from brainstorming and decision-making. Please respect that.

These small groups are meant to be safe places for everyone to have the chance to share from their hearts and the Holy Spirit's leadings their responses to these questions. Remember, as God told Moses to remove his sandals for he is "standing on holy ground (Exodus 3:4-5)", in the small groups we all will be standing on the "holy ground" of everyone's passions, hopes, dreams, fears, uncertainties, and excitement for the ministry of Central Lutheran Church and our collective future together.

It is good to be here, and I have also started to take in the sites and experiences our great state of Alaska has to offer. Anything you think I should experience and add to my "bucket list", please feel free to share :-)

In partnership, Pastor Mark

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 September 9, in person & via zoom.us
- † Sarah Southside Circle meets on first Tuesdays, next on September 3, for coffee at 10:30 am at Bells on Specking Road. All are welcome!
- † Men's Breakfast & Bible Study meets first Saturdays at 9 am at Flo's Pancake House, next on September 7
- [†] The Early AM Study starts September 10 with weekly meetings via zoom (meeting ID 963 8911 9335 and contact the office if you need the password) at 7 am to study <u>The David Story</u> by Robert Alter.
- † The Divine Drama meets Tuesdays, 6:30-8 pm, and also Wednesdays, Noon-1:30 pm, (same class two times weekly, pick the best time for you!) starting September 17.

Celebrations and Community

Fall is a beautiful time in God's creation. The air is crisp and cool and the leaves crunch under your feet. Pumpkin spice is the flavor including pumpkin spice Oreos. It is a time for the church to begin a new season of faith formation and service projects. In the September lessons we hear further stories of Jesus' ministry on earth. One of my favorite figures in the gospel of Mark is the Syrophoenician woman. Her encounter with Jesus is often marked as the beginning

of his ministry to the Gentiles. She is strong in her faith and not afraid to speak out. We too need to be strong in sharing the gospel with all our neighbors.

This month LSSA is kicking off its Primetime Wednesday community events. On September 25th, we invite you to join together for lunch and listen to Vicar Zach share about his trip to Tanzania. The event will be held at St Mark Lutheran Church, 11:30 am to 1 pm. We are



asking that you sign up so that we know how many are planning to attend. The event is free of charge. The lunch will be catered by Beans Café's Motley Crew Bakery. Let me know if you are planning to attend.

Future events include a session with GCI on using cell phones, a foot care clinic with the parish nurses and an Octoberfest celebration.

On October 6th at 4:00 pm I will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Service as a deacon in the ELCA. I hope that many of you will be able to attend as you have all supported me in this journey and it is a celebration for the whole church. There will be a light supper following the service.

Peace and blessings. Linda Bender - SAM Hunter - canine contributor

Vicar's Corner

Grace and peace to you.

We have a reading from James coming up on the 1st of September. James 1:17-27 is a reading that resonates with me. The summary title of this reading is "Hearing and Doing the Word". Growing up in a German Lutheran congregation in southeastern Pennsylvania I often observed parishioners "doing" the Word, living out their faith in service to others and God's creation. The people of Advent Lutheran were engaged in activities that brought the love of God to others. Even as a little boy it felt like the work of the church was important,

meaningful activity that directly impacted the lives of others.

But as Luther would point out, you can't work your way to salvation. God's grace has already provided our salvation. Thus our service in the world is our joyful response to God's love for us. So hearing the Word is just as important because without that good



news of Jesus Christ to point us to the love of God who knows what our response to neighbors in need might be. That balancing act of hearing and doing the Word reminds me of our weekly rhythm of worshipping and renewing our sense of God's love and grace and then going back out into the world with that love for others. Cycles of renewal and sending have always been part of the church and continue to be today. I look forward to be with you in worship and in service as a church community.

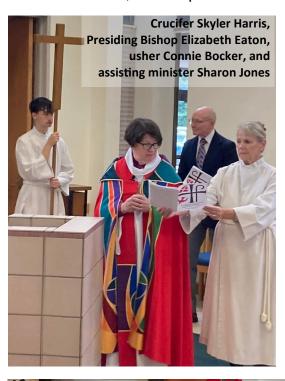
Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Vicar Zach

The Installation of Bishop Tim Oslovich was an inspiring event. Pastor Mark led off the proceedings with an excellent introduction and then Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA took over the program. What a dynamic personality and speaker she is. We are truly blessed to have her as our leader. The church was only ¾ full, but the hymns were sung with a volume that made you feel every seat in the Sanctuary was full. Our out-of-town guests were truly impressive singers. Bishop Tim ended the service with some humble and clever remarks that made me feel good about having him as our new bishop.

Please congratulate Paul Harris when you see him. He is retiring from the School District at the end of August after 26 years of dedicated service.

- Steve Lambert, council president















Donate by using the QR code

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

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

This month our volunteer construction supervisor is in the thick of the permitting process, with earthwork coming soon and temporary fencing going in this week.

Our Volunteer Services Committee has been working hard to make sure that when our guests move into their individual shelter units at In Our Backyard, volunteers will be ready to welcome and assist them. November 1 is our target date to welcome the first occupants to the units being constructed on the property of Central Lutheran Church, so we are now actively seeking interested volunteers. If you think this might be how you can best support IOBY, please take a few minutes to complete this survey if you are reading online:

Follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/InOurBackyardAK/ where we invite you to comment and share posts.

Take a look at our website: https://inourbackyard-ak.org/

Please pray for guidance and patience, and for the people living unsheltered who need a safe place to be.

Loaves & Fishes, Julie Graham, Betsy Baker and Betty Hertz, IOBY Board Members

VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Filling out the form does not obligate you to volunteer but does give us a picture of who we can draw upon. Thanks for your time and interest! If you are not able to access the survey using the link above, please contact secretary@inourbackyard-ak.org.



Central Lutheran is praying for ...

September ELCA Alaska prayer partner: Faith Lutheran Church, Delta Junction

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

Michael Griggs (nephew of Sharon Jones), Doris Ziegler (mother of James Ziegler), Judith Moore, Linda Padden, former Central pastor Rev. Luther Abrahamson, George Rhyneer, Kay Zernia, Margaret Floerchinger

Independence Day 2024 Anchorage, Alaska

"From the earliest years of our republic, citizens have gathered to celebrate America's birthday on July 4, reading the Declaration of Independence penned by Thomas Jefferson and ringing a bell once for every year of American independence. This twenty-eighth annual commemoration of that independence proclaimed 248 years ago in 1776, is organized by the Harvard Club of Alaska, in association with the Mayor's Office and the Office of Cultural and Recreational Services of the Municipality of Anchorage." (Taken from the program from the 2024 Independence Day Celebration)

Spearheading this event for the past twenty-eight years has been Central's own Jim Muller, aka "The Fourth of July Guy." We all know Jim and Judith for their involvement as members of our congregation, most recently working with our Winter Homeless Shelter, the Helping Hands Closet, and, of course, as members of our CLC Choir.

Dr. Muller (Jim, to us) has long been a professor of
Political Science at the University of Alaska. He retired Is the ceremony last year after 41 years with UAA, thus earning the concluded with title of Professor Emeritus, but continues to further his passion for keeping Americans aware of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and what it means to us today.

The ceremony concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska. He retired is concluded with singing of the Alaska.



Assisting Jim with the presentation this year were two members from Central, David Braun and Debbie Pankow, neither of whom needs an introduction.

David is a member of the CLC choir, former singer with the Anchorage Opera now serving on their Board of Directors, and member of the Anchorage Chamber Singers and the Anchorage Community Chorus. David also happens to be one of Jim's former students. Debbie is a gifted musician and music teacher, better known to us as our organist and Bell Choir Director.

The program began with the singing of "Fair Harvard" by David Braun. After a welcome by Jim, the audience stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the singing of all four verses of our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

As the Declaration of Independence was read this year by Miranda Strong, also a former student, we were reminded of the significance of this document and of the fate of those fifty-eight brave men who signed it. Considered traitors to the British Crown, many were later persecuted and/or killed for their crimes, or died in poverty. Let us never forget that because of their vision and sacrifice made two hundred and forty-eight years ago, we live in freedom today.

The ceremony concluded with the singing of the Alaska Flag Song, led by David Braun and accompanied by Debbie Pankow, preceded by a little history of the song's



beginning and the addition of the second verse, but not before a special presentation could be made. Speaking on behalf of the Thirty-Third Alaska State Legislature, Genevieve Mina, sponsor and member of the State House of Representatives (and former student of Professor Jim), presented Jim with a certificate bearing the Seal of the State of Alaska, honoring him for his service. A copy of that certificate is posted on our bulletin board for all to see. Please take a moment to read it, and to thank and acknowledge Jim for all he has done and continues to do to keep us aware of why we are able to be who we are today.

— Birte Eliasen

Birthdays

Wish a happy birthday to:

Tor Strand 9/1
John Stabb 9/2
Jennifer Jones 9/2
Marianne Pfeil-Lang 9/3
Dr. Shelly Taylor 9/7
Mona Saupe 9/7
Scott Graham 9/8
Hannah Ward 9/8
Quin Forbes 9/9
Chandler Compton 9/9

Noah Goltz 9/10
Michael DeMetz 9/10
Tim Andrew 9/11
Ashley Cummings 9/12
Amy Nicolet 9/12
Rebecca Schaeffer 9/12
Rev. Lisa Hackler 9/15
Kjell Nordgaard 9/15
Kara Nicolet 9/17
Kaare Elde 9/17
Zoe Holtzman 9/19

Judy Lynch 9/19
Carolyn Coe 9/21
Sara Cummings 9/23
Cindy Olson 9/23
Joyce Lucas 9/24
Quincy Voris 9/25
Rowan Bulkow 9/26
Jillian Martin 9/27
Madeline Maurer 9/28
Frances Jones 9/30

Anniversaries

Wish a happy anniversary to: Charlie & Carolyn Coe 9/1 Barney & Kyra Holtzman 9/2 Ralph & Judy Bagley 9/4 Lucinda & David Wright 9/5

Jeff Sauve & Annette Iverson 9/6
James & Karen Emmel 9/6
Gordon Nelson & Rebecca Schaeffer 9/7
Steven & Ellen Zernia 9/15
Ashley & Nico Raynor 9/27





Saturdays 9 am - 2 pm

May 11 - October 12
at 15th & Cordova
Free parking
Alaska grown local foods

Study:

The Divine Drama study begins this month, with the



same class offered each week first on Tuesday evening, 6:30 to 8 pm in the Community Room, and again on Wednesday, Noon to 1:30 pm, also in the Community Room and via zoom link. Classes begin on September 17 and 18 and continue weekly. The group order of manuals and workbooks was placed; we did order an

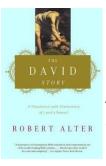
extra or two, or you can still go to solapublishing.com and pick up the two manuals and two workbooks. Is the \$55 cost a barrier to your participation? Don't let that stop you from attending, we will be happy to find a set of books upon request.

Book Group is reading Tom Lake, by Ann Patchett.



Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents Ann Patchett | have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. As in all of her novels, Ann Patchett combines compelling narrative artistry with piercing insights into family dynamics. The result

is a rich and luminous story, told with profound intelligence and emotional subtlety, that demonstrates once again why she is one of the most revered and acclaimed literary talents working today. Discuss with friends on Monday, September 16, at 4:30 pm.



The Early AM Study starts September 10 with weekly meetings via zoom (meeting ID 963 8911 9335 and contact the office if you need the password) at 7 am Tuesdays to study The David Story by Robert Alter. "Acclaimed for its masterful new ROBERT ALTER translation and insightful commentary, The David Story is a fresh, vivid rendition of one of the great works in

Western literature."

Confirmation class and kids' faith formation news is coming soon and starting up in October. Stay tuned.

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

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

Gentlemen - Breakfast & Bible Study meets first Saturdays, next on September 7, at 9 am at Flo's Pancake House.

News

News

News

Fellowship:

Meet & greet groups are gathering in September for shared meals or visits at coffee shops and other locales. Hosts are calling neighbors with invitations. The goal is to create get-togethers with most all of our members that Pastor Mark can attend and thus meet all of us over the next few weeks.

Sarah Southside Circle meets first Tuesdays for fellowship, next on Tuesday, September 3, 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, 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:

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is Sunday, September 8, and we invite all to bring toiletries including toothbrushes, floss, travel size toothpastes and shampoos and lotions, washcloths, deodorants, combs, and soaps for care kit creation.

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 September focus is canned protein - tuna, chicken, beef, spam, beans and more.

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. As garage sale season wraps up, please consider inviting neighboring garage -sale hosts to donate unsold items to our Closet.

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, Annette Iverson, Lisa Bulkow, Paula Zawodny, Steve Lambert, Jane Hanson, and Shayla Marshall for providing cooked pasta, meatballs and sauce, milk, bread, fruits, and dessert for August.

Middle- and high-school youth, a multicongregation Seward trip is getting organized for October 17-18-19. Details to come!

Women of the ELCA & friends — you're invited



Women of the ELCA Retreat in Soldotna Friday - Sunday, September 13-15, 2024

A retreat weekend focused on prayer: worship, workshops, free time, service, meals, and activities big and small. Friday 5 - 8 pm and Saturday 9 am - 8 pm and Sunday 10 am - Noon, at Christ Lutheran Church, Soldotna. Event organized and led by Alaska Synodical Women's Organization board members. \$20. RSVP by Friday 9/8 to AlaskaSynodicalWomensOrg@gmail.com and we can recommend a hotel or seek a guest room invitation.



Women of the ELCA: Central Lutheran

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

Women of the ELCA: Alaska

Alaska Synodical Women's Organization invites YOU to a women's retreat at Christ Lutheran Church in Soldotna, on the Kenai Peninsula. Save space on your calendar to carpool (or fly) down September 13-14-15 for shared worship, meals, study, fun, music, visiting and meeting new friends. Registration forms available this coming week. Cost is only \$20 and includes most meals. Homestays or a space in a friend's motorhome are great options, or stay walking distance away at Soldotna Inn for under \$90 a night.

September 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	Lne	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Mark Galbraith	2 Labor Day holiday Church office closed	3 10:30 am Sarah Southside Circle @ Bells on Specking Road 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball	4 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch 5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsal 7 pm Choir rehearsal	The Tues. morning study pavin	6 Ladies, have you registered for the September 13-15 retreat in Soldotna?	7 9 am Men's Breakfast @ Flo's Pancake House 9 am - 2 pm Anchorage Farmers Market
8 God's Work, Our Hands 9 Sunday 11 9:30 am WORSHIP with 2 Rev. Mark Galbraith B followed by Care Kit filling party & 15th Ave Clean up	9 Noon Finance Committee 1:30 pm Staff meeting 2 pm Women's <i>Gather</i> Bible Study	10 7 am Early AM Study 10:30 am Sarah Southside Circle @ Bells on Specking Road 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball	11 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch 5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsal 7 pm Choir rehearsal	12 Save the date: Sunday October 6 we will host a 4 pm Service of Ordination for Deacon Linda Bender	13 ASWO Women's Retre	14 9 am - 2 pm Anchorage Farmers Market ASWO Women's Retreat in Soldotna, 9/13-9/15
15 8 am Church Council 9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Mark Galbraith	1:30 pm Staff meeting 4:30 pm Book Group discusses Tom Lake by Ann Ann Patchett Patchett	17 7 am Early AM Study 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball 6:30-8 pm The Divine Drama	18 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch 10 am Kitchen Cleaning Noon-1:30 pm The Divine Drama 5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsal 7 pm Choir rehearsal	19 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4 pm Memorial Service and Reception for Kay Zernia	20	21 9 am - 2 pm Anchorage Farmers Market 11 am - 2 pm Foot & Wound Clinic open 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open
9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Mark Galbraith	23 1:30 pm Staff meeting	24 7 am Early AM Study 1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open 4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball 6:30-8 pm The Divine Drama	25 8:30 am Coffee Klatsch 11:30 am - 1 pm LSSA Golden Connection lunch @ St Mark Lutheran Church Noon-1:30 pm The Divine Drama 5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsal 7 pm Choir rehearsal	26 by 3 pm Volunteers deliver evening meal to Clare House shelter	27 2:30 pm Caring Ministers Meeting @ Dahna's	28 9 am - 2 pm Anchorage Farmers Market
29 9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Mark Galbraith	30 1:30 pm Staff meeting	9				

Central Lutheran Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2024	



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.

