

# Central Thoughts

Volume 36 - Issue 11

October 2020

Central Lutheran Church

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## A Message from Pastor Jeremy

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

[ Reformation Sunday ]  
October 25th

[ Council Meeting ]  
October 13th via Zoom

[ Quilting ]  
CANCELED

[ Community Dinner ]  
Every Sunday at 5pm

Sunday Worship Services  
will be online via Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/595273296>  
starting at 9:45am

Bulletins are available at  
[www.centrallutheraneverett.com](http://www.centrallutheraneverett.com)

Bible Study

Wednesdays via Zoom;

<https://zoom.us/j/346299474>  
starting at Noon



Join Pastor Jeremy and other for  
the Coffee Hour!

Every Monday at 10:00am

<https://zoom.us/j/95456636027>

Dial by your location: 1-253-215-8782  
(Tacoma)



*This is the first in a two-part series leading up to and following the 2020 presidential election. If you find that this newsletter article leaves you feeling smug or indignant, give it a little time; next month's newsletter will upend all of that.*

Dear Conservative and Right-Leaning Sisters and Brothers in Christ (but progressives...pay attention)

First and foremost I must communicate with you that I love you. There is much that you bring to the body of Christ, from fiscal sensibility to a strong commitment to your families. I am not certain where Central in particular would be without you; I would rather not think about it. What does need to be said is that Central could not rightly call itself a church without you. I worry that our churches are becoming ideological echo chambers, dens of safety where we do not have to be challenged. Not only do I have no interest in serving such a church, I am not convinced that such a gathering can call itself a church that is exclusionary to members of the body of Christ.

Second, and I need to make this crystal-clear, I do not hope nor aim to influence your vote. (In fact for me to attempt to do so would severely compromise our tax-exempt status, not to mention our status as a church under both governmental and ecclesiastical analyses.)

As a matter of fact, and this may surprise you, I do not care how you vote. It seems to me that those of us who reduce morality to the circles we fill in on a ballot are taking it way too easy on ourselves. So it may come as a relief to you, but I am not going to use this space to talk about our president. For while what our elected leaders say and do are most surely the vocation of all followers of Jesus – we made promises to this end at our Affirmation of Baptism – the vows that I made as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in particular more specifically speak to my care of you, the church to whom God has called me.

Like you, I am frustrated and saddened by the divides that are splintering our nation. And, like you, I grow angry with much of what I allow to fill my bandwidth regarding current events. I do still believe, though, that those divisions plaguing us are convoluted manifestations generated by merchants of information for whom our anxiety and fear and anger have become profitable. And do not think for one second that I am singling out only those sources of information that you take in! At all points on the political spectrum we read and hear from voices delineating “them” and “us.”

One of the most beautiful extensions of the conservative mindset is your sense of tribe. It is something that I wish liberals better comprehended. But you understand the strength of family and that all moral development starts and ends within the family structure. This is especially evident in your commitment to sticking around even when the preacher says something that is not to your

*(Pastor: Continued on page 2)*

(Pastor: Continued from page 1)

liking, not to mention your ongoing financial generosity through your commitment to tithe.

I am sorry that you have found yourselves at the center of character attacks during the past four years. This is unfair, and it is undeniable that it has happened. I empathize with your attitude regarding these criticisms. I hope you hear me when I say that there is an important and helpful distinction that needs to be made, and this is necessitated by one of your greatest strengths! For those people who have great loyalty and an unwavering commitment to their clan, it is very easy to hear criticism of a member of their clan to be a criticism of their own self. This is not necessarily a bad thing! This collective sense of identity can, however, become problematic when it seems as if there is only a “for us or against us” mentality. Then our natural instinct is to circle the wagons and prepare the defenses. I have watched as this noble quality you carry has been exploited, and it troubles me.

I know that you know that there is no question that your family at Central has your back. There are certainly ideological differences – and, to restate this critical point, we are less representative of the Kingdom of God *without* these differences – but you have no idea how much it warms your pastor’s heart to see that you would sacrifice yourselves for any member of our body because you know that when it comes down to it, they would do the same for you. And as beautiful as this is in the context of our scrappy little household, I sincerely believe that if you would look farther across your neighborhoods and up and down the length of I-5 and well into the rest of these United States, you would see much the same.

Simply put: your tribe is so much bigger than you might imagine. And it is not your strength of character, nor is it the unseen virtue of those we might call outsiders that makes this so. It is the inherent quality of the Image of God, that *Imago Dei*, the fingerprints of God evident from the hairs on our head to the depths of our souls that we share. As for those who might wish us harm? Let them be the ones to forsake the *Imago Dei* as we rest in the knowledge that, come what may, God is ever and always present in our lives.

Let any voice that tries to tell you otherwise go the way of disco music.

With deep and sincere gratitude for you and all that you contribute to God’s Kingdom,  
Pastor Jeremy

## A Message from Vicar Pam

The September issues of Gather magazine’s Bible study looks at memory and encourages us to look at holy memory – the way in which the Bible encourages us to remember our own story along with God’s story. I have been thinking about memory and how it connects us with the past and often points towards the future. A year ago we sold Mariah, our forty-foot wooden sailboat, which was part of our family for many years, and it felt a little like when our children had married and left home. The couple who bought Mariah have kept in touch and frequently share pictures and videos bringing back memories of family laughter and adventure. I am reminded of summers sailing out of Friday Harbor, weekends spent in port and walking from the marina into town to the Catholic church where the Lutheran Church in the San Juans held its Sunday worship. But it is the time spent lying at anchor in a quiet cove where I feel most connected with God. Nights spent anchored off of Santa Cruz Island in California, and in anchorages throughout the San Juan and Gulf Islands looking at the stars as my husband pointed out constellations and planets to our children and later our grandsons, marveling at the vastness of God’s creation. Evening sunsets when the sky turns to pink, orange, and gold – these are holy memories to me. Time to sit, reflect and just be with God.

What are your holy places – your memories? I hope as we get to know each other you will share those memoirs with me.



October 2020, Vicar Pam



As many of you know, Todd and Kelley Krause lost their farm to the wildfires in Eastern Washington. Along with replacing their home and the entire farm, Todd and Kelley will have to replace the bridge to their farm, which is

considered a private road. If you would like to help the Krause family rebuild, [checks can be made to Onecho Bible Church](#) with something similar in the memo line. The church address is [Onecho Bible Church, 11361 Almota Rd., Colfax, WA 99111](#). Additionally, cards and words of encouragement are a great help as just knowing people care for them is significant. At this point the family does not need to replace clothes or other items as they do not have anywhere to put it. They have five sons: Tucker (16), Caleb (15), Peter (12), Silas (9), and Luke (4).



## A Message from the Bishop

From The Spirit, October Issue

Dear Beloveds of Christ,

There are stories in this world that we will never know. Stories that beg to be told and yet they will never be heard because they have been forgotten, covered up, never told or intentionally destroyed.

A few weeks ago, I was floating down the Wenatchee River on an inner tube. It was a beautiful day – perfect weather – no sign of humanity anywhere. Rounding a bend, I suddenly saw a strange site: An old skinny white man wearing only a loin cloth flying a rainbow-colored kite. This man camping/living in an old RV on the banks of the Wenatchee, basically naked, long full beard and hair, arms outstretched towards the heavens and flying a beautiful multi-colored kite. *What story does he have to share?*

A few Sundays ago, the *New York Times* ran a photo essay about hunger in America. The author writes, “In the pandemic economy, nearly one in eight households doesn’t have enough to eat. The lockdown, with its epic lines at food banks, has revealed what was hidden in plain sight: that the struggle to make food last long enough, and to get food that’s healthful — what experts call ‘food insecurity’ — is a persistent one for millions of Americans ... Like many hardships, this burden falls disproportionately on Black and Hispanic families, who are almost twice as likely to experience food insecurity as white families.” ([www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/09/02/magazine/food-insecurity-hunger-us.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/09/02/magazine/food-insecurity-hunger-us.html)) Through the photo gallery in this *New York Times* photo essay, we catch glimpses of the lives of Kandice, Brayden, Doris, Armani and many others. *What other stories are held in this story?*

As I write this article, large swaths of California, Oregon and Washington are on fire. Houses burned to the ground. People missing. People killed. Treasured items gone. Lives disrupted and forever changed. *What stories are lost in the raging fires?*

When you read this article, there is a very good chance that over 200,000 people in the United States will have died from COVID-19. Over 6 million will have been infected. Common sense measures to mitigate the spread of COVID have been politicized. Suicide, depression, hunger, loneliness, domestic violence, joblessness, and other hardships have increased in these last six months. *What story is no longer possible?*

Today I am more and more aware of the stories that have disappeared, been forgotten, or pushed underground. And I am ever mindful that as people who follow Jesus, we have the responsibility, the obligation – maybe it is a calling – to listen to the stories in the gaps of other stories. And to understand that the biggest voice might not be the place where the story is happening.

In Matthew 18, Jesus says, ‘Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.’ A few verses later Jesus says, “It is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.”

You see, we are the people of the book – we are the people who claim the Holy Story. We are the people who believe that the story of God and humanity did not end with the cross but continues in, with and under all of us today. The Holy Spirit is alive and active among us. And the Holy Spirit is calling us through the stories we remember, the stories we share, the stories we hear, and the stories we notice.

Let us listen to one another’s story. Let us be mindful of the stories that exist on the margins. Let those of us who have had big voices quiet ourselves to hear other stories. And let us be mindful that listening to stories is not the end. For those of us who are white, let us take to heart these words from Austin Channing Brown, “In too many churches and organizations, listening to the hurt and pain of people of color is the end of the road, rather than the beginning.” (From *I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*)

I would love to hear your story. How are you doing? Where is God working in your life and in the life of the Church?

(Bishop: Continued on page 4)



*Faith and Everyday Life* ~  
October 2020 ~

*Psalm 34:18*

*I recently visited Rancho La Hermosa orphanage near Primotapia, Mexico. In this orphanage there were more than 20 children, who previously had been living on the streets. The mission of the orphanage is to rescue children from the streets and provide them with school, clothing, food and a future. I saw God's light in these children. I saw them playing and enjoying their summer vacation with clothing, good food, love and care. Ordinary people are donating their time and money to build school rooms and more dorms to continue restoring these children. Seeing the work the orphanage is doing changes my perspective on how to give back. I realize one week is not enough to really help others. I have been thinking of ways to continue the call to help others. There are many in our communities that need help. My plan is to be able to do that. This is what God calls the church to do. God calls us to help widows and orphans. To show each child that they are valuable and worthy of love and care. That God has loved them from the beginning of time. God knew about each of them before mom or dad or anyone else. He calls his creation perfect. He never makes mistakes and has a purpose for each of these children. How has God blessed you and called you to help others? I invite you to ask God to reveal how you can help in your community, your church, or to the ends of the earth.*

*Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network*

*(Bishop: Continued from page 3)*

Where do you see God? What stories need to be told? What pain needs to be shared? What stories do you want to hear?

May the One - whose story we live in - provide care, comfort, love, and justice for you and for this world.

Let us live, move, and be in God's Holy Story.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

From the October 2020 edition of *The Spirit*

### **You can give online!**

It is so simple, you can do it in a minute.

- 1) Go to [www.centrallutheraneverett.com](http://www.centrallutheraneverett.com).
- 2) Click on "Online Giving—Click Here to donate."
- 3) You can create a profile for ongoing use, or not.
- 4) You can establish a recurring offering (weekly, monthly, etc.)

*Thank you for your commitment to Central's ministry!*

### **Angel Tree Update**



Bill & Kathryn Troll will not be coordinating the Angel Tree gifts this year, partly due to the logistics of church not being open & access to the Christmas Tree to pick up Angel gift tags, then returning the gifts to the church. Also, when we contacted Prison Fellowship Angel Tree people, I found out that the on line application to do it in 2020, the application did not process through, so they did not receive it. But, please, still continue to pray for this very important ministry to reach children of inmates & that other churches will be able to continue to give with their churches being open. The opportunity to still give is still available by donating to the Angel Tree Fund at Central Lutheran & one large donation can be sent in early December. Thank you for your support over the years."

Bill and Kathryn Troll



## Mission of the Month, October 2020

### Everett Gospel Mission

Your help is needed now more than ever!

People experiencing homelessness are among the **most at risk for COVID-19**, and more and more people are needing help. **But the cost of meals and other essential supplies is rising, and the Mission is doing everything we can to keep up.**

Your gift will help people experiencing homelessness during this critical time in Snohomish County.

### **GOTS and WANTS**

Do you have something you are finished with, that someone else could use, and you would rather just give it away than bother with a yard sale or ebay? The problem has always been "How do I connect with someone who'd love to have it?" Central has a solution: Our new **Gots & Wants** column. Central members can offer things for free. It could be items or services or whatever, but it must be free. The giver provides their name and contact information, and Central isn't involved beyond posting it.

If there is something you want, like a lawnmower or treadmill or a baby-sitter or yard worker, you can post that too. Specify whether you want it free or perhaps you are willing to pay for it.

#### Guidelines:

- Everything offered ("Gots") is free. Nothing is for sale.
- Free items will not be flipped for resale.
- Things being sought ("Wants") can be free or not.
- Ad runs only once.
- Keep it brief. Office may edit content.
- Only Central members may post ads and only Central members may respond, although the Central member can give the free item to someone.
- Ad includes name and either phone number or email address of Central member posting the ad.
- Central is not involved beyond posting the ad.

### **Gots:**

Christmas lights good condition. All strings light up. Two bags of indoor lights, five bags of outdoor lights. Take all.

Call Karen Wenzel 425-359-3489

Free: Clean single bed mattress. Medium firmness foam: 1 piece 4" x 18" x 38", 1 piece 2 1/2" x 24" x 72".

Trygve 425-252-0106

### **Wants:**

Have extra COVID-19 masks? Do you make them? Quilters will soon be sending a box to Lutheran World Relief.

Contact: lylanderson@gmail.com



### Remember Our Homebound in Your Prayers

The following persons are unable to worship with us on a regular basis.

Please include them in your prayers.

Phyllis Norlie at Josephine; @home or adult home residences: Sarajane Petersen, Linda Slater, and Sheryn Todd

Please contact the church office if you would like to be included or add a name to this list.

### Remember Our Military Members in Your Prayers

Jacob Shimmin—U.S. Navy

### Remember Our College Students in Your Prayers

Holden Fox—Lewis and Clark College (Portland, OR)

Kayla Barnes—Everett Community College

### **Church Council Nominations**

*The nominating committee is seeking candidates for the following council positions:*

1. **President** — *The president shall preside at meetings of the congregation and the congregation council shall perform such other duties as the congregation or church council may authorize as long as they do not violate the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.*
2. **Education** — *The coordinator shall be responsible for the education programs of the church including Sunday school, vacation Bible school, confirmation, Bible studies, forums, and the library. The coordinator is also responsible for youth ministry programs including events such as regular gatherings, retreats, and servant projects.*
3. **Fellowship** — *The coordinator shall be responsible for promoting friendships and fellowship within the congregation by means of such activities as congregational dinners, small groups, sports teams, and shall provide opportunities for multicultural interaction within the congregation.*

*If interested, please contact Bob Lee, Nancy Olsen, Kathy Trosvig, or the church office.*

### Council Members

The church council members for 2019 - 2020 are listed below. If you have questions, concerns or comments, you June contact the appropriate person directly. Please keep our council members in your prayers.

#### **President**

Peter VanderWeyst

#### **Vice-President**

Bob Lee

#### **Secretary**

Karen Fox

#### **Treasurer**

Dave Finstad & Debbie Ritchie

#### **Property**

Ben Krause

#### **Education**

Kelli Trosvig

#### **Stewardship & Missions**

Debbie Trosvig

#### **Fellowship**

Debbie Saunders

#### **Audit Committee**

Dave Watts

Clayton Olsen

Steve Olsen

#### **Nominating Committee**

Kathy Trosvig

Nancy Olsen

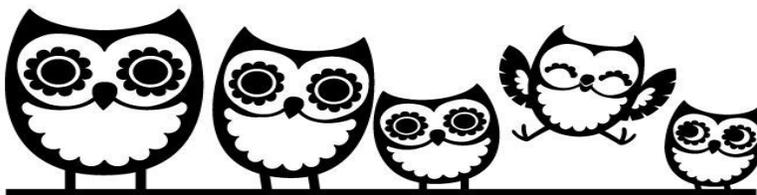
Bob Lee

Stan Surridge



*We will resume the counting/usher schedule when the church building is open for Sunday services*

*If you would like to assist our Sunday services via Zoom, please contact Pastor Jeremy.*



## October Birthdays and Anniversaries

10/1	Craig Krassin	10/22	Amelia Hudson
10/3	CJ Boettcher	10/26	Ann Hopkins
10/4	Phyllis Norlie	10/26	Emily Anderson
10/8	Erin Brockway	10/26	Kathy Steams
10/9	Lars Olin	10/27	Suzy Lavis
10/10	Hong Luong	10/28	Frank & Kathy Steams
10/14	Barbara Lichneckert	10/29	Mikki Sams
10/15	Mai Tran	10/29	Sophie Tran
10/18	Marilee Richards	10/30	Cole Mardesich
10/20	Brad Brockway	10/30	Emily Painter
10/20	Tim Haskins	10/30	Frank Steams
10/21	Brooke Rogers		

Newsletter Article Cutoff for the November Issue is

Friday, October 23rd. [centralluthoffice@gmail.com](mailto:centralluthoffice@gmail.com)

Everyone is encourage to submit!



Central Lutheran Church  
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Everett, WA 98201

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #222  
Everett, Washington

Return Service Requested



October 2020

*"For you, O God, are my fortresses,  
the God who shows me steadfast love." Psalm 59:17*

