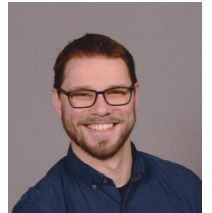




PASTORAL REFLECTION

Greeting friends in Christ,



By the time you read this pastoral letter, Easter will be upon us. This is always a hopeful reminder for me that the newness of this season is truly a chance for us to embark on another adventure together as God’s people. Christ came to us, died amongst us, and also lives again within us. In this time in history, the Church needs to remember this reality now more than ever. Central Church is beginning that spiritual renewal as it takes chances on new ministries and looks to the community it serves. And your spirits have grown and you have begun to respond to God’s call on your life. It is a pleasure to witness as your pastor.


The last several months have been preparatory for the next step taken in our life together as disciples in Lake Odessa. Your finance team and I have been working with a church consultant for financial health. Mark Meyer has offered a lot for us to consider with our next steps. Why Church? Why this church? Where are we going? How will we get there? This invitation to dream and to imagine the future is the resurrection journey and these questions have already begun to inspire change at Central Church.

Soon, the Administrative Council will introduce a set of recommended leaders for a new Governance Board and Leadership Development Team. The Governance Board will be the headwaters of a new single-board model of church leadership that seeks to steer the church more than manage it. The Leadership Development team will focus on creating leaders equipped to do that steering, as well as identify new leaders coming up in their discipleship journeys. All the while, the pastor will work with various other leaders to manage church functions and to empower ministers for the work that calls out from their hearts, such as the Family Build Nights inspired by Jackie Spagnuolo, the collaborative summer VBS with Zion Lutheran inspired by Jane Kostanko, the Respite community gatherings inspired by Rita Bigelow, and others. More definitive information about how this structure will take shape at Central Church will come to you in the coming weeks, as well as a date for an official vote at a church conference to help us make this transition.

I encourage every one of you to prayerfully bring your questions and needs for clarification to me if you have them. May God guide us in our yearning for their vision.

In Christ,

Rev. Paul Reissmann

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Fresh Food Truck 2pm	3 Adult Bible Study 5:30pm	4 Community Respite 1-4pm Free Dinner 4-6pm	5	6
7 	8 Church Office Closed Blood Drive 12-5:45 pm	9	10 Adult Bible Study 5:30pm	11 Missions Comm. 10 am Community Respite 1-4pm Free Dinner 4-6pm	12	13 Private Event in Fellowship Hall
14 Rev. Eric Beck preaching	15	16 Finance Comm. 7pm	17	18 Community Respite 1-4pm Free Dinner 4-6pm	19	20
Rev. Paul on Vacation through April 20 →						
21 Choir Call-Down	22	23	24 Adult Bible Study 5:30pm	25 Community Respite 1-4pm Free Dinner 4-6pm	26	27
28 Noisy Offering for Ionia Hospice	29	30	Sunday School—Sundays at 9:30 am No Sunday School on April 7 Worship—Sundays at 10:30 am Belding Adult Education Classes—Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9 am—12 pm Honeybee Fitness Class—Wednesdays at 6:30 pm			

*Dates and Times subject to change



Central United Methodist Church is located in downtown Lake Odessa at 912 4th Avenue. Contact us at 616-374-8861 or info@centralchurch-lakeo.org.
Check out our Facebook page for weekly sermons, current activities, and other events.
Central United Methodist Church—Lake Odessa

Financial Report as of February 2024

February Income: \$14,139.03
 February Expenses: \$11,286.62

Thank you for the generosity you give to further Christ's mission in our community.

February Contributions for Designated Ministries

General Missions: \$50.00
 Helping Hands: \$220.00
 Human Relations Day: \$50.00
 January Noisy Offering for RAVE: \$147.00
 Thursday Community Dinners: \$510.00



"... the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best."
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna, verse 1, Hymnal #278
 Words by Jeanette Threlfall, 1873

**April Noisy Offering
 April 28**

Our Noisy Offering for April will support Ionia Area Hospice.

Ionia Area Hospice is an independent, local, nonprofit hospice providing the utmost in compassionate, meaningful end of life care.

Prayerfully consider giving on **April 28**. Your change could change a life.



Birthdays

04/02 Christy McDonald
 04/10 Aaron Reiser
 04/19 Rita Bigelow
 04/20 Michael Helmic
 04/25 John Gentner

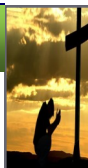


Anniversaries

04/19 Allen & Kathy Decker—49 years
 04/20 Matt & Ashley Singh—11 years
 04/21 Bob & Karen Avery—62 years
 04/21 Bob & Char Kendregan—40 years
 04/25 Tom & Shelly Reiser—32 years
 04/29 Brandon & Jackie Spagnuolo—7 years

OUR PRAYERS OF CONDOLENCE

Family of Shirley Decker
 Family of Paul Reissmann III



Would you like to help save a life? The church is currently looking for volunteers who would like to organize and support the Red Cross Blood Drives. The responsibilities of Red Cross Volunteers are as follows:

- Coordinate Blood Drive dates and volunteers
- Give hospitality and refreshments to our guests
- Clean up and lock up the church



**BLOOD DRIVE
 VOLUNTEERS
 NEEDED!**

Time commitment: One Monday every 2 months, 10:30 am to 6:30 pm

For a more detailed description, please contact the office.



A new family ministry will be beginning this fall! We will be inviting families to join us for a free night of family fun building with Legos.

This ministry was recently rewarded a \$1500 grant from the Michigan Conference Christian Ministry to purchase start up supplies. But there can never be too many blocks! So, if you have Mega Bloks, Duplo Blocks or Legos that your kids or grandkids no longer use, please consider donating them to the Family Build Nights. There will be other volunteer opportunities available and will be announced soon. See Jackie Spagnuolo for more information.

Upcoming
EVENTS 

Central Church and Zion Lutheran present

Camp Firelight

at Central Church

**June 17—19th
 9 am to 12 pm**

Breakfast served at 8:30 am



Join us during worship on **April 21** for the Choir Call-Down! We will be singing **How Great Thou Art, verses 1-3, #77** from the hymnal.

All are welcome to sing! All you need is your voice, a hymnal and a joyful spirit!



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
 at Central Church
 Monday, April 8
 12 to 5:45 pm**



When writing checks, please take care to write 2024 for the year!