

Centering

NEWS OF CENTRAL LUTHERAN | MINNEAPOLIS



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS



Generosity

We invite every child of God to share their gifts of time, abilities and finances for the sake of God's mission in the world.

SPRING 2019

Generosity

Because of you...

By Pastor Peter Nycklemoe

You are a beloved child of God. You are an essential part of this faith community. Because of you, your faithfulness and generosity, the Central Lutheran faith community worships, grows in faith, cares for those in need, lives generously and explores the promise of God for all.

You are a beloved child of God. You are an essential part of your family, neighborhood, circle of friends, work place and various communities. Because of you and your faithfulness in daily life, God's love is shared wherever you are at that moment. You bring an awareness of God's presence to all your relationships. Because of you there is compassion, kindness, joy, hope and a thousand other embodied gifts in every moment of your daily life.

It is time to name and celebrate all the ways God is alive and at work in and through our faith community. It is time to name and celebrate all the ways you make room for God to be present in your daily life. How many "because of you" moments can we name?

The Faith and Finance Ministry Team is gathering these "because of you" moments. The hope is to share one "because of you" in the *Spirit* each week. If you are excited about one of the "because of you" moments at Central, please share it with me and I will be sure it is shared in the *Spirit*. If you know of a "because of you" moment in someone's daily life, please share that with me, as well, and I will seek to share that in the *Spirit*.



For now, here are two first "because of you" moments to begin a year of giving thanks for God's amazing grace and love at work in and through our faith community and daily lives:

Because of you, the Free Store provides clothing throughout the year, responding to the call to care for those in need. Because of you, a friend celebrated happy hour and received love and support in a time of transition.

I am grateful for you and all the ways you live from the foundation that you are a child of God.

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation

Sunday Mornings and Wednesdays during Lent

Sundays, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, 12:15 p.m.

We are centering on the faith story of the church in the Creeds and our own faith stories during the season of Lent. You are invited to the Sunday morning adult faith formation hour to hear the faith stories of some of our fellow Central members. Each person will share their faith story and then there will be time for you to connect with them and their story. Pastor Peter will host the faith story and will help facilitate the conversation as we grow in faith together. The Sunday adult faith formation will be in the lower narthex, coffee, tea and cookies are served, as well. Members will also share their faith stories during the mid-day Lenten worship service on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Here is the schedule of our fellow members as they graciously share their story:

- Sunday, March 10 – Tom Allen
- Wednesday, March 13 – Tom Allen
- Sunday, March 17 – Paul Pribbenow
- Wednesday, March 20 – Amanda Hutchinson
- Sunday, March 24 – Danielle Dunasky
- Wednesday, March 27 – Danielle Dunasky
- Sunday, March 31 – Bobbie Spradley
- Wednesday, April 3 – Pastor Judith Stone
- Sunday, April 7 – Roger Lilleodden
- Wednesday, April 10 – Jerry Olerud

100th Anniversary Celebration

March 2019

3: Family Fun Event - 2 Defy Gravity



April 2019

6/7/8: Guest Preacher: Rev. David Wangaard and potluck on Sunday



The Rev. David Wangaard serves as senior advisor for church and congregational relations for Lutheran World Relief. David was born in Bloomington, Minn., attended St. Olaf College in Northfield and in 1983 graduated from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul. The Rev. Wangaard has served parishes in Teller and Brevig Mission, Ark.; Baudette, Moorhead, and St. Paul, Minn. From 2001 to 2011, the Rev. Wangaard served as bishop's associate for Urban and Multicultural Ministry in the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA. In 2012, David moved to Baltimore to serve First Lutheran Church in Ellicott City as interim senior pastor. In 2014, David began his call at Lutheran World Relief.

The Rev. Wangaard is married to the Rev. Susan Tjornehoj who serves as senior pastor of Christ Lutheran in the Inner Harbor of Baltimore. They have one daughter, Ingrid who is a third grade school teacher in St. Paul, Minn. Fun fact: David is related to one of our founding members, Christian Wangaard.

May 2019

Anniversary weekend May 4, 5, and 6

May 4

5:00 p.m. Worship
Anniversary Banquet Happy Hour
6:30 p.m. Dinner and Keynote Speaker: Paul Pribbenow, president of Augsburg University
8:00 p.m. Dance

May 5

8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Family Style Banquet; Author Greg Bancroft Speaking
4:00 p.m. National Lutheran Choir Concert (Tickets at nlca.com)

May 6

11:00 a.m. Community Worship
11:30 a.m. Anniversary Community Meal

May 12: Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra Anniversary Concert

May 30: Ascension Day: "Beating the Bounds" virtual event



Fun Family Event: 2 Defy Gravity

Sunday, March 3

3:00 p.m.

As part of our 100th Anniversary celebration, 2 Defy Gravity will come and perform in our sanctuary. 2 Defy Gravity is a beautiful and death defying circus-based performance duo. They combine the circus arts of silks, lyra, acro-balancing, trapeze, chains and fire with dance and aerial dance. Bring your friends and family to watch this high flying duo in Central's sanctuary.

Cost: Adults: \$10 (\$12 at the door); Youth 18 and under are free.

Community & Generosity

By Pastor Melissa Pohlman

Restoration Center

The Restoration Center is a center for people in downtown Minneapolis experiencing homelessness and poverty. Services include: emergency rental assistance, clothing, meals, worship, Bible study, support groups, and more! The Augsburg Central Health Commons, which provides basic medical services, is a collaboration with Augsburg University.

Free Store

Hours

Monday: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.; 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Donate

Donations of clothing (especially men's), towels, sheets, small household items, jackets, hats, luggage, backpacks, new socks and underwear, as well as other items are needed. We always need paper bags with handles!

Donations accepted at the church Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and weekends before and after worship.

Financial contributions are also appreciated.

“For during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.” (2 Corinthians 8:2)

Paul writes to the folks in Corinth to brag on the people who were the church in Macedonia. He wants them to have a glimpse of all the ways people of different economic standings care for one another. That generosity wasn't limited by perceived wealth, but it came out of a strong will and deep connections within the Body of Christ.

There is no generosity apart from community and there is no community apart from generosity. We are not called to give of ourselves until we know and feel the pain of our neighbors. We cannot come together if we do not give of our time and resources in order to build relationships. One of the joys of being at Central is your commitment to being both a generous community and a community of generosity. It takes people who are willing to show up and put the time into being together for us to do any of the ministry we undertake in this place, from Street Voices of Change to the community meal and Free Store to the Heading Home Central Ministry Team. And then you give generously of yourselves, of your resources, of your gifts and it all becomes this beautiful dance of vulnerability and finances and warm coats and life experiences and we all are blessed. We are blessed because God has given us our very selves to be in relationship with God and each other and when we can do that with a spirit of generosity that flows from every part of who we are, we cannot help but overflow.



Homeless Day on the Hill

Wednesday, March 13

Heading Home Central and DCEH will be sponsoring a bus from Central to the State Capital for this important advocacy event to secure funding for affordable housing and tenant rights. Sign up now at the welcome desk. The bus will board at 7:30 a.m. from Central for this important time to meet with your legislators on providing affordable housing and fair tenant practices in Minnesota. Please join us.

An Easter Church

By Deacon Mark Sedio

One might compare the church year to a three-legged stool with the three major festivals serving as one of the legs: Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Each year, as we pass from one of these legs to another, I am excited by the music that forms each cycle—the hymns and carols, choral and instrumental pieces. So many possibilities! Now, in the midst of completing another Advent/Christmas/Epiphany cycle—the mystical songs of anticipation, the joyous carols announcing a miraculous birth and so many hymns about light, and Mary’s Song set to music by Antonio Vivaldi, we look forward to a more introspective time. Lent, Holy Week and the Triduum (“The Great Three Days”) all lead us to a time of absolute celebration as we mark the Resurrection.

When I first came to Central, one of our choir members said to me, “You know, there are Christmas churches and Easter churches. Central is an Easter church.” I’ve come to believe this. As much as I am moved by the candlelight singing of “Silent Night” on Christmas Eve, it is when our congregation is gathered around the new fire at Easter Vigil, when we pass the “Light of Christ” to one another, hear the wonderful Old Testament stories that tell the *Heilsgeschichte* (story of salvation), and join together in song that who we are as God’s people really shines. In this ancient tradition of Lent, the Triduum and marking the Resurrection we reflect, we discover who we are as members of Central and also as members of the Body of Christ. We are connected—to God (a vertical dimension) and to one another (a horizontal dimension) which, together, form the sign of a cross. The sign of ultimate love. Our sign. And how incredible it is as we gather weekly for worship to bathe ourselves in the words and music of the great hymn writers, the remarkable texts that composers have brought even closer to our hearts through their compositions.

With this next “leg” we will have many opportunities to be together, to sing, to listen—and then to move on again into a spirit of love—Pentecost.

The Creeds: The Church’s Faith Story

Wednesday evenings, 6:00 p.m., fireside room

You are invited to join Pastor Peter and Pastor C for a study of the Creeds of the church, from the perspective of the faith story of the church. We will look at early biblical Creeds, the development of the early church Creeds and some of the interesting Creeds developed in different contexts. These conversations are to deepen our Lenten journey as we explore affirmations of faith. This same class series was offered on Sunday mornings in February during the adult faith formation hour. It is offered again for all, so join the conversation for the first or second time! This conversation will begin on March 13 and go for five weeks.

Upcoming Musical Highlights

April

On Saturday, April 6 our soprano section leader Froya Olson and former bass section leader Harrison Hintzsche (now in grad school at Yale)—both winners of the Edvard Grieg Society’s 2018 Voice Competition—will be presenting the Winners’ Recital “Echoes of Nostalgia” featuring works on that topic by Scandinavian composers. Starts at 7:30 p.m. at Mindekirken (Norwegian Memorial Church, 924 E 21st St, Minneapolis). That same weekend Harrison will be singing some of Vaughan Williams’ “Five Mystical Songs” in our Sunday morning worship services (April 7).

Our four current section leaders Froya Olson, Robin Helgen, Mike Fairbairn and David Gindra will be presenting one of Heinrich Schütz “Geistliche Konzerte” in worship **on Sunday, April 28**.

May

We close the “choir year” (September through May) **on Sunday, May 19** with another larger work for choir, soloists and orchestra when we present a festival “Te Deum” by Johann Adolph Hasse in celebration of our centennial year. Worship at 10:30 a.m.



Formation: Looking Toward Spring

By Pastor Stephanie Friesen

With spring just around the corner, we begin the slow and beautiful journey that frees us from winter and welcomes us to new life. The formation cluster looks toward spring with excitement for all that lies ahead.

Beginning with our littlest members, our Sunday school children continue to learn about Jesus and his lessons for us. The children love singing each week and learning from our amazing team of shepherds who not only teach of God's love but demonstrate God's love with their presence each week. They will wrap up their year in mid-May and will be singing in worship to celebrate the wonder of another year.

Our eighth-grade students are busy preparing for their confirmation day! We have nine students who will affirm their faiths on April 28—saying **Yes** for themselves to God's invitation to the Christian faith we share. These delightful young students bring promise and vibrancy to our life together.

The high school students are invited to spend a weekend in April doing service and learning in the Twin Cities. We are coordinating volunteer opportunities for our students and will add a layer of fun and learning as we go. And, plans are underway for a middle and high school trip to Amnicon this summer. More than 20 students have signed up to journey north for a week of paddling and camping in the woods and rivers of northern Wisconsin. Our summer trips have become a constant and steady source of faith formation for our kids.

The Caring Crew—our volunteers who visit our members who don't get to church as often as they would like—are busy checking in, bringing communion and connecting with old friends. Each month we share stories of blessings from those bringing and receiving greetings to their brothers and sisters.

Our adult faith formation continues in its pattern of Bible studies on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. We've had great fun with our Sunday morning adult formation and faith stories. Our young adults continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month for faith and fellowship.

Upcoming for Youth

March 10

Second Sunday for Youth

April 13-14

High school service and retreat

April 28

Confirmation day

May 12

Sunday school singing in worship

May 19

Last day of Sunday school

New Welcome Statement

At the Annual Meeting, February 10, the congregation voted to become a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.

Read our new welcome statement below.



You are welcome. No exceptions.

Central Lutheran Church experiences God's expansive love and strives to share it abundantly. We affirm all people without regard to age, race, biological sex, housing status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration, refugee or migration status, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, and physical or mental health or ability. All are a part of God's family, created in God's image.

We strive to practice radical hospitality with all people. Everyone is invited to immerse themselves in the life of this community of faith as we explore the promise of God for all.



Lent and Easter at Central

By Pastor D. Foy Christopherson

Saturdays and Sundays During Lent

Lent's 40 days of fasting, prayer, and works of love begin on March 6 with Ash Wednesday services at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Expect optional imposition of ashes at this Holy Communion service. Saturdays and Sundays in Lent will be simple celebrations of the Lord's Supper. We'll include confession each week as part of our gathering.

The word "Lent" comes from an Old English word for spring and the purpose for the Lenten disciplines is reconciliation and the renewal of our lives, through the renewing of our baptismal identities—individually, yes—but also as a community.

Fasting, prayer and acts of love are the discipline of Lent. Lent is not a time for singing one passion and crucifixion song after another. The readings for each week provide a rich tapestry of themes and images that offer glimpses into how we might live out our corporate baptismal identity and be reconciled to one another. Luke's Gospel contains stories rich in themes of reconciliation. This year the lectionary is also rich in journey and travel images as well as water images.



I Give My Heart...

Stories and Creeds in the Life of Faith

Wednesdays in Lent

The Creeds theme and faith stories also guide our Wednesday mid-day prayer and helps shape the evening prayer experience.

12:15 p.m.

Service of Word and Prayer
Our midweek mid-day Lenten prayer time will include individual faith stories (see page 2) and preaching on the articles of the Creed from Luther's Catechism, responsive prayer, scripture and hymns.

12:45 p.m.

Light lunch follows service (soup, bread and salad)

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Dwelling in the Word Bible Study

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Prayer stations; prayer around the cross; labyrinth (in the sanctuary)

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Adult Faith Formation - The Creeds: The Church's Faith Story (see page 5); Bell Choir rehearsal

7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

ELW Evening Prayer

7:30 p.m.

Central Choir rehearsal

All liturgies at Central are webcast live on the internet. Access the feed from Central's website.

Holy Week

Passion/Palm Sunday - April 13/14

5:00 p.m.	Palm Saturday
8:30 and 10:30 a.m.	Passion Sunday (Luke) with Procession with Palms entrance rite

Maundy Thursday - April 18

7:00 p.m.	Holy Communion - Great Commandment - Love one another
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Good Friday - April 19

Noon	Good Friday Adoration of the Crucified; John Passion
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Prayer stations in the sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Adoration of the Crucified; John Passion

Holy Saturday - April 20

7:00 p.m.	75-90 minute Great Vigil of Easter Easter fire on the new patio, salvation readings in the great room, baptisms and Easter Eucharist in the sanctuary; conclude with festival fellowship
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Easter Sunday - April 21

7:00 a.m.	Sunrise Devotions in the columbarium/empty tomb (no sunrise service)
7:30 and 9:30 a.m.	Easter breakfast seatings
8:30 and 10:30 a.m.	Easter Festival Choral Eucharist (with Central Choir)



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Center Our Lives in Faith

This publication follows the way God calls us to center our lives in faith. We center in worship, lifelong faith formation, community and generosity.

Each of these mission areas invites us to ways we personally center as well as how we center as a congregation. By centering, by deep listening to God, by lives shaped by daily prayer and in the ancient ways congregations grow in love and care for all, we will explore the promise of God for all.

Cover Photo

From the Annual Meeting on February 10, 2019.



Exploring the promise of God for all

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