

# Centering

SUMMER 2023

NEWS OF CENTRAL LUTHERAN | MINNEAPOLIS



*A Summer of Belonging*



# *“You Belong to Christ,* in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia!”

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Cover art:

Image of Central Lutheran Church  
bell tower lit in rainbow colors in honor of Pride

Photo by Rich Fedick,  
Rich Photography



## The promise of *Belonging*

*You belong to Christ in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia!*

**W**e sing these words at every baptism in worship here at Central. If you know the tune, sorry if I have just given you an earworm for the day. It is a catchy tune, filled with the joy of naming the promise of belonging. It is the promise of God's love in Jesus Christ witnessed in the waters of baptism. The wonder of this promise is that your "beloved-ness" has always been, is real now, and will always be. You belonged to Christ before you were born. You belong to Christ now as you journey through life. In death, you will fully know the wonder of belonging to Christ.

It is in the waters of baptism that we witness this promise that has always been, is now, and will always be. The waters of baptism are a visible sign of God's promise for you. The new font's continually flowing water is the eternal sound of God's promise that you belong.

One invitation is for you to pause at the font before worship and remember that you belong. If it has been a difficult week, the pause at the font is a moment when you are grounded in the promise of God's love. If it has been a good week, the pause at the font is a moment of gratitude for God's abundant generosity. Yes, you belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia!

*Grateful for this shared life in Christ, where we all belong,  
Pastor Peter*



# Save the Date

Summer is full of opportunities for us to worship and be together in community.

**May 29**  
**Building closed**  
Memorial Day

**June 4**  
**Sunday, 10:30 a.m.**  
Graduate Recognition Sunday

**June 17**  
**Saturday, 6 p.m.**  
Carillon Concert after worship

**June 19**  
**Building closed**  
Juneteenth National Holiday

**June 24-25**  
**Pride Weekend**

**June 25**  
**Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**  
Vacation Bible School

**July 2**  
**No Sunday meal**  
4th of July weekend




**July 3-13**  
Restoration Center closed




**July 5**  
**Wednesday, 6 p.m.**  
Summer evening Carillon concert

**July 9**  
**Sunday, 10:30 a.m.**  
Worship celebrating 100th Anniversary of Sudan Mission  
  
**11:30 a.m.**  
Food trucks celebrating 100th Anniversary of Sudan Mission

**July 12**  
**Wednesday, 6 p.m.**   
Summer Reads Book Group

**July 15**  
**Saturday, 6 p.m.**  
Carillon Concert after worship

**July 16-21**  
Middle School Youth trip

**July 19**  
**Wednesday, 6 p.m.**   
Summer Reads Book Group

**July 23**  
**Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**  
Vacation Bible School

**July 22-30**  
High School Youth trip





**August 2**

**Wednesday, 6 p.m.**

Summer evening Carillon concert

**August 16**

**Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m.**

New Member Happy Hour event

**August 19**

**Saturday, 6 p.m.**

Carillon concert after worship

**August 20**

**Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**

Vacation Bible School

**August 27**

**Sunday, 11:30 a.m.**

Church Picnic

**September 4**

**Building closed**

Labor Day

**July 26**

**Wednesday, 6 p.m.**



Summer Reads Book Group

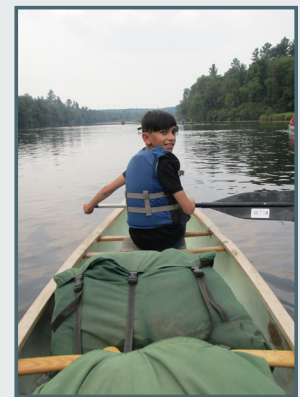
**July 30**

**Sunday, 11:30 a.m.**

Food Truck and Carillon concert

**July 31-August 3**

Restoration Center closed





# Belonging in Generosity

The Generosity Area Mission Cluster centers on the invitation for every child of God to share their gifts of time, abilities, and finances for the sake of God's mission in the world.

## New Invitations for Summer on the Plaza

There are new invitations for summer on the plaza for 2023. There will be some Sunday carillon concerts and food trucks. There will also be weeknight and Saturday night carillon concerts with food or happy hour. The summer on the plaza schedule includes a global mission Sunday and the annual church picnic. Specific details will be shared in the *Spirit* for these events. Here is a brief overview of the plan for summer on the plaza at Central for 2023:

- There will be three carillon concerts offered after the Saturday night 5 p.m. service. Plan to join worship and then stay for happy hour and the concerts on June 17, July 15, and August 19. Please note that the July 15 carillon concert is in coordination with the City of Bells and Orchestra Hall's Day of Music.
- There will be two Wednesday night carillon concerts, featuring popular music played for the evening. The concerts will be at 6 p.m. on July 5 and August 2.
- On Sunday, July 30, there will be a carillon concert and food truck after worship at 11:30 a.m.

In all there will be six carillon concerts offered over the summer months as we explore different ways to offer these concerts and feature Central's carillon.



## Sunday Lunch and Fellowship

With the shift in carillon concerts and the challenge we have had securing food trucks, the kitchen staff is excited to offer Sunday lunch over the summer. There will be some new menu items with the warmer weather, and the same chance for fellowship together over lunch after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. As always, cookies and coffee are served before and after 8:30 and 10:30 worship. Happy hour is offered after the 5 p.m. Saturday night service.

Please note that there will be no happy hour after Saturday worship on July 1 and no lunch served on Sunday, July 2.

On July 9 there will be food trucks to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Sudan mission. On July 30 we will have a food truck and the carillon concert. On August 27 we will gather for the annual church picnic with brats, hotdogs and hamburgers grilled by fantastic chefs, Dwayne and Dave.





## 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Sudan Mission

Central Lutheran was part of the birth of the Sudan Mission in Africa 100 years ago. Pastor Stub was instrumental in this mission start that has accompanied the people of Cameroon and the Central African Republic in their mission and



ministry. On Sunday, July 9, Central hosts this 100th anniversary worship service, planned by missionaries and the faithful in Africa. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth

Eaton will be here to preach, representatives from Africa will bring greetings, and wonderful song will fill the sanctuary. The plan is to then celebrate with food trucks on the

north plaza. Central's regular worship will be offered on Saturday night at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 a.m., but you won't want to miss worship at 10:30 a.m.!

## New Member Happy Hour

All who have joined Central over the past three years (or longer if you would like to join the fun) are invited to a late summer happy hour. We will gather on Wednesday, August 16, from 5:30-7 p.m. This happy hour is sponsored by the Generosity Team and is offered to help deepen connections, to learn about Central, and see how your gifts connect with the ministry needs we share as a faith community. Save the date and watch for details to follow in future issues of the *Spirit*.

## Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, August 27, noon  
*Plaza*

You are invited to the annual church picnic on Sunday, August 27. Once again, the great grill team of Dwayne and Dave will cook brats, hot dogs, and hamburgers for us.



There will be bingo, prizes, and great fellowship for all ages.

The Belonging Team will be working on details and will also have invitations for ways to connect and belong over the 2023-2024 program year. Save the date on your calendar and plan to be here for this annual time to connect and belong.





Show Up  
for

# Twin Cities Pride

Central Lutheran Church may not have officially become a Reconciling in Christ congregation until 2019, but we have been showing up for Twin Cities Pride Festival for more than 20 years. In 2000, a group of congregations, mostly from downtown Minneapolis, started a collaborative church booth at the festival. Central has been a part of this effort since the very beginning.

The booth is run by volunteers who welcome visitors and share information with anyone interested in the downtown churches. Each participating congregation has an informational flyer detailing their worship and ministries. Passing along the information is just a small piece of the task. There is also the opportunity for conversation and fun! There is even hope that this year there will be music supplied by choral volunteers from some of the churches, including Central.

Volunteering at the booth is also a great opportunity to meet new people in the community, but especially from other downtown congregations. Typically, there are six to ten congregations represented and those volunteering

often work with members from

two or three congregations on any given shift. Central member and past volunteer, Kevin Lile describes volunteering at the booth as, “a great experience for a number of reasons; you have the opportunity to host with folks from other congregations and get to know them, you may have the chance to

share with someone who has had negative church experiences the love and welcome they would experience at Central, and you get to experience the beautiful diversity that is Pride.”



This year, the Pride Festival will be held on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25 at Loring Park. The Churches of the Downtown Area booth will be looking for volunteers to run the booth in two-hour shifts between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. If you are interested in volunteering, reach out to Kevin Lile at [klile49@outlook.com](mailto:klile49@outlook.com).



# Belonging in Formation

The Lifelong Formation Area Cluster centers on lifelong faith formation where all can develop a closer relationship with God and deepen their call for mission.



Top row: Juliette, Ben, Carl  
Bottom row: Elizabeth, Anna, Alex

**O**n April 30, six students affirmed their baptisms in the celebration of confirmation. A beautiful Sunday in worship, the church community celebrated with these kids as they said 'yes' to God's invitation to live in faith, community, and curiosity about where God is calling them next.

These students had a unique experience in that they started their confirmation learning during the fall of 2020, when all learning had shifted to online. We are so proud of their tenacity and commitment to learning and growing through unprecedented times. Congratulations and blessings to all six!

## Summer Formation for All Ages

*You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.*

This simple jingle, sung at every baptism and confirmation, finds its way into almost every youth trip we take and each VBS Sunday in the summer. The tune is simple and catchy, and the kids sing it while paddling, hiking, swimming, and playing. The words and melody live deep in the kids' consciousness, deep in their bones, which is beautiful.



Summer allows the kids at Central to learn experientially. We shift from classroom learning to a more embodied experience: moving outside the church to see what God is up to in this big, beautiful world. Adult learning shifts from Bible study to book study, moving us from scripture to a more hands-on approach to living as God intends.



The plan this summer is for the **Sunday school children** to explore *mending* creation through some intentional practices. The **middle school kids** are headed to Amnicon for five days of paddling and exploring the rivers of northern Wisconsin. The **high school students** are headed back to Christikon, a beautiful camp nestled along the Boulder River in the Absaroka Mountain range. We are looking forward to a magical summer!

In the **adult book study**, we will read the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III's book *Dancing in the Darkness*, a beautiful exploration of finding joy in the midst of troubling times. Moss writes with a spirit of hope and promise, affirming that life is often challenging, yet our hope and faith assures us of resurrection.

You belong to Christ in whom you have been baptized. Come and live into the promise of belonging!

# Belonging in Community

The Community Area Cluster centers on welcoming all into life-giving community where relationships are fostered and a range of human needs are met.

## A Welcoming Garden Ministry

Spring felt hard earned this year. We had that little warm up just after Easter that felt more like summer and then it was just cold the rest of the month. The Garden Ministry Team met on those warmer days and planned for when



spring was here to stay. There are decades of wisdom that gathers when the Garden Team meets. In mid-

April every year, they go over what worked last year and what needs to change for this year.

The Garden Ministry Team does this work because they know that one of the most impactful ways we are part of the community on this corner is through our green space and gardens. As many people as walk in our doors on any given day, we have just as many folks walk through our space on their way to the convention center, downtown, or back to their homes. Welcome and belonging can take on many forms. This year it looked like crocuses and daffodils in the cold days when we all needed to hold on to the promise of resurrection.

Watch this summer as the team plants and waters and weeds and know that this beauty is curated for you and for all the folks who cross our paths.



## Community Organizing Training

Community Organizing Training is coming to Central Lutheran this summer. For many years folks from the Align Central Team and Street Voices of Change have gone to weeklong training to learn how to claim the power



God has given God's people to co-create the world as it should be. Through learning how to cut an issue, being strategic, and making the ask, we win the changes needed in our community. Training this year will be August 7-11 here at Central. We already have a solid group from Street Voices ready to attend this year. If this is something you feel a call to, please email Pastor Melissa so we can discern together.

## Summer at the Restoration Center

The Free Store in the Restoration Center is always in need of your gently used clothing and household items. We especially need children's clothing and brown paper bags right now. Our summer "Christmas on the Plaza" events are held when we have more donations than we can distribute in our regular hours. This year, our donations have been light, so we will see if we have enough to support a Christmas event.

### Restoration Center Closed:

- May 29
- June 19
- July 3-13
- July 31-August 3
- September 4



# Belonging in Worship

The Worship Area Cluster centers on welcome, hospitality, and the central act of the church as people of God gather for corporate worship.

## Pop-up Adult Choir

June 11, July 23, August 13

**9:30 a.m. rehearsal, 10:30 a.m. service**

Show up early on Sunday morning, learn some simple music, and sing it at the 10:30 service! You can come to one, two, or all three dates. This is a perfect opportunity to try out choir without committing to a full season of rehearsals and performances.



## Twin Cities Pride Choir

June 24 or 25, TBD

Central Lutheran Church's Choir been invited to sing at Twin Cities Pride Festival as one of the downtown church choirs. The schedule will depend on the availability of interested singers. If you would like to join us, please contact Isaac Drewes at [idrewes@centralmpls.org](mailto:idrewes@centralmpls.org).

## Choristers (Children's Choir) Info Session

August 6, 12:30 p.m.

Do you know a child who would like to sing? Come to this session to learn about our Chorister program for children in elementary and middle school. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights, with Sunday performances 1-2 times per month. Prior experience and church membership are not required to join; only the desire to show up and sing! If you would like to learn more, please contact Isaac Drewes, and come to the info session.



Most times when we encounter music, there are performers and an audience –

think of a concert hall or a theater. In worship, however, there is no “audience;” we all sing together, our voices raised in hymns of unrehearsed yet awe-inspiring splendor. Our various musical ensembles support congregational singing and elevate worship with their own musical offerings. The result is an intricate dance of scripture, song, and sacrament, which is truly unique within the context of our society.

As we come to the close of the 2022-23 program year, we are grateful for the dedication of Central Choir, Choristers, and Bell Choir. We have hosted guest musicians from the Wartburg College Choir and First Lutheran, Sioux Falls. We are blessed to have such a rich musical tradition here, and it would not be possible without the innumerable people who share their time and talents every week. Thank you to each and every one involved!

*Isaac Drewes  
Acting Director of Music*



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**Vacation Bible School:**

June 25

July 23

August 20

**Pride Weekend:**

June 24-25

**100th Anniversary of  
Sudan Mission:**

July 9

**Church Picnic:**

August 27



## Exploring the promise of God for all

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