Commemorative Service

25th Anniversary of 9/11

Sunday, October 25, 2026, 4 p.m.
Central Lutheran Church

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 and work toward racial equity. Everyone is invited to immerse themselves in the life of this community of faith as we explore the promise of God for all.

Worship

Bold print indicates responses spoken by all.

Congregational hymns are found printed in this bulletin or in the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW).

You are encouraged to listen to your body and stand or remain seated at any point in the service.

Masks are welcome, but not required.

Children are welcome and celebrated in worship. Each Sunday there are Children's Bags at each of the ushers' tables at the entrances to the sanctuary. Inside each bag is a worship activity and snack. Many families sit near the children's tables next to the baptismal font, but you are welcome to sit anywhere in the sanctuary that is comfortable to you.

All are welcome to receive communion at Central. At the ushers' invitation, you will proceed toward the altar where there are regular and gluten-free wafers served with wine or grape juice. Your server will offer bread and wine for all, including children. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, please let your server know.

Offering can be made online using the QR code in the bulletin or left in the offering plates just outside the sanctuary doors.

MEMBERS OF:
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | www.elca.org
Align Minneapolis | www.alignmpls.org
ReconcilingWorks | www.reconcilingworks.org
MNIPL Climate Justice Congregation | www.mnipl.org

PRELUDE

"Air" from *Suite No. 1* — Florence Price

WELCOME

OPENING MEDITATION

"The Gift" — Steven Amundson

The Gift was composed by Steven Amundson in memory of Eric Drotning, a gifted percussionist in the St. Olaf Orchestra for four years who graduated in 2002. The work was commissioned by Eric's parents, William and Christine Drotning, and his sister, Elizabeth Drotning Hartwell. It was selected for this program because, like Dr. Claussen's work, it is a musical memorial.

The music is based on a short motive derived from the first and last letters of Eric's first and last names: E–C–D–G. These four notes usually appear in an ascending gesture, though they are transposed and reshaped in various ways, woven into the work's melodic and harmonic fabric.

The piece begins quietly in the strings, where Eric's four-note motive is clearly heard. The solo clarinet continues with an expanded version of the idea, followed by other solo woodwinds, whose similar phrases unfold against rich string sonorities. The marimba—one of Eric's favorite instruments—accompanies the cellos as they introduce one of the main themes, molto espressivo. The composer conceived this passage as a loving duet between siblings; Elizabeth is a cellist.

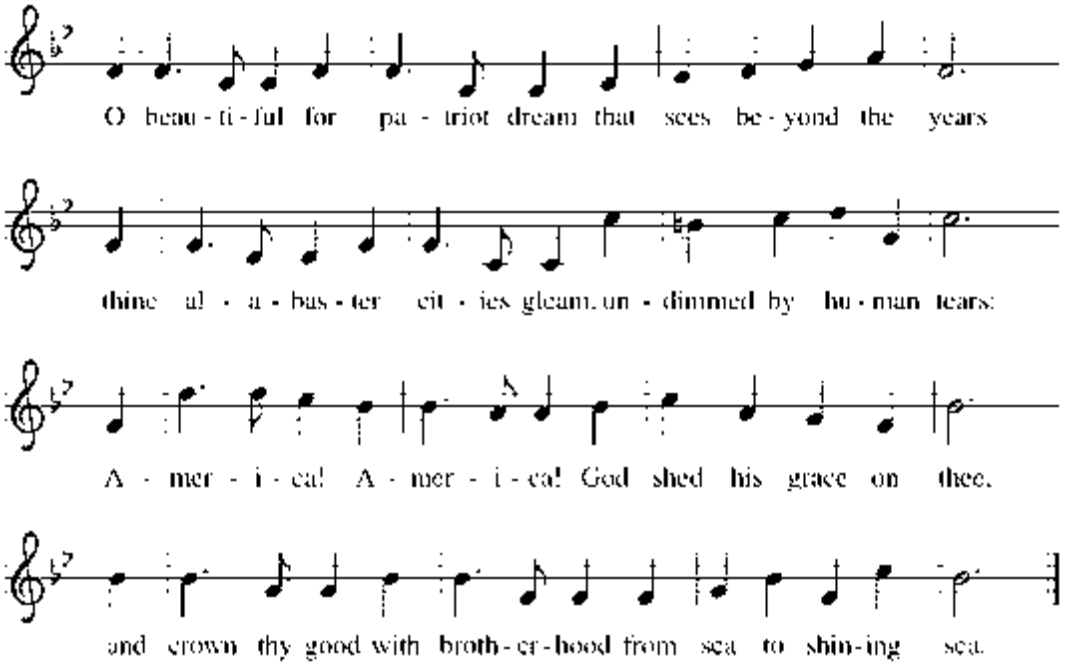
The solo oboe introduces another theme, which the upper strings then repeat. A transition leads to one of the Drotning family's favorite hymns, "O Day Full of Grace," presented by the horns. An earlier theme returns above a timpani pedal point; the timpani was another of Eric's favorite instruments. Solo woodwinds and strings then recall ideas from the opening. The hymn's opening strain sounds in the cellos over a plagal, or "Amen," cadence, followed by a final statement of the four-note motive.

HYMN

"An American Hymn"

Arr. Cecil B. Effinger,
transcr. René Clausen

The congregation joins on Stanza 3



Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929
Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1847–1903

Scan to make a financial offering.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Gracious God, the remembering of September 11, 25 years ago continues to rip our hearts and tear our souls. The continuing conflicts and strife, the divisions and acrimony, cause us to feel that we are in a continual walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

In the depths of pain and anger, we gather before you, O God, our rock and our refuge. You are our only comfort. You are our only hope. Merciful God, you know the depth of our suffering. We have only begun to mourn, even after all these years. Even in this moment.

Faithful God, surround us with your everlasting arms. Hear our cries of despair, heed our calls for justice, and do not let us lose hope, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray.

Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Memorial" René Clausen

Music Text:

Adonai! My, God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
- Mark 15:34

May I be peaceful. May you be peaceful. May we be peaceful.
May we live with ease of heart. May we live in joy.
- Traditional Buddhist Meditation

Gracious and loving God, pour forth your mercy upon us all.
For those who have fallen, and are lost in the oblivion of rubble,
Blanket them with your eternal light.

Gracious and loving God, pour forth your mercy upon us all.
For those whose souls have turned cold and empty,
Grant them a large measure of your mercy, and a nutritious kernel of your kindness
Grant them peace.

Gracious and loving God, pour forth your mercy upon us all.
For those whose dreams are haunted by images of horror:
Enfold them in your loving embrace.
Fill our hearts with your healing love.

Gracious and loving God, pour forth your mercy upon us all.
We pray for our enemies, all those who hate us;

We condemn them to your mercy, O God.

Gracious and loving God, pour forth your mercy upon us all.
If there be any grain of hatred in us, wash us clean and cleanse us.
Move us to the common ground of Your Being, O God.
- Roy Hemmerling, Concordia College Religion Department

Translations:
Adonai, vehaer pancecha, venivashea. (Hebrew)
Ya Rab Naw'war Alaina. (Arabic)
Domine Deus, ostende lucem tuam, Et salvi erimus. (Latin)

O God, shine your light on us, and we shall be saved.
- Psalm 80

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison. (Greek)
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy
- Mass Ordinary

"Memorial" is a composition for mixed chorus, orchestra, and baritone solo, based on the subject material which reflects the horrific events of September 11, 2001, in New York City. Though presented as one continuous movement, the composition follows a program that comprises four sub-sections - "September Morning, The Attack, Prayers, and Petitions." The first two sections reflect the actual chain of events leading to and including the attacks upon the World Trade Center towers. The music of destruction, however, is kept to a minimum in favor of musical emphasis upon a possible spiritual response to these events. Healing, cleansing, and hope are the main themes of the work.

"September Morning" paints the picture of a beautiful, sunlit morning in New York City. In this opening section the chorus is used as a section of the orchestra, intoning wordless vocalizes in a Debussy-like texture. Premonition of the attack is then heard in the orchestra as the music moves into "The Attack" sequence. As might be expected, the attack on the World Trade Center towers inspires music that is highly dramatic, rhythmically intense, and colorful, making use of extended percussion and the entire range of both instrumental and choral forces. The only text used in the first two sections is the phrase, "O God, why have you forsaken me?" The word for God is also presented in Hebrew – Adonai. The reason for the minimal use of the text owes to the actual nature of witness responses to the shocking, unfolding drama of the attack on the Twin Towers. It was a moment in time when the vocalism of words in thoughtful sentences gave way to sensory overload and the abbreviated, clipped cries of disbelief. "Where is God?" was a question that vexed every terrifying cray that day.

The third and fourth sections, subtitled "Prayers" and Petitions," respectively, move away from programmatic description of physical world events to musical evocation of spiritual responses to these events. The text of the baritone solo uses portions of a series of prayers written by Dr. Roy Hammerling of the Concordia College Religion Department. Dr. Hammerling wrote these intercessory prayers in the days immediately following September 11, 2001. Under the baritone solo, the chorus intones a prayer-like aleatoric chant based on the structure of a Buddhist Metta meditation – a three-part series of personal meditation.

The final section, "Petition," is an elegiac and introspective musical prayer for mercy, mutual understanding, and hope for the future. The primary text is one verse from Psalm 80, "O God, shine your light on us, and we shall be saved." This phrase is presented, first sequentially and then simultaneously, in English, Latin, Hebrew, and Arabic. In juxtaposing these languages, some of which are the languages of the cultures at war with one another, it is the hope of the composer that in so doing we may find a common ground of higher being, and be called away from darkness into light. The piece ends with a quiet Kyrie – a plea for God's mercy on this world.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

(Please stand)

HYMN RESPONSE Hymn 565

"All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"

SPOKEN RESPONSE from Revelation 21

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.
And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"See, the home of God is among mortals.
God will dwell with them,
and they will be God's people.

God will be with them
and will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said,
"See, I am making all things new.
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give water
as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

CLOSING PRAYER

Our help comes from you, O Lord, you who made heaven and earth. In the midst of grief, you are our comfort. In the face of uncertainty, you are our rock. In the wake of tragedy, you are our hope. So even as we weep, we praise you and place our trust in you. We pray in all of your Holy Names.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.
Amen.

(You may be seated)

POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on "Abide with Me" Setting, Isaac Drewes

Serving Tonight

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	*presiders*
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	
Central Choir	*ensembles*
Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra	
St. Michael – Albertville High School Concert Choir	
René Clausen	*directors*
Steven Amundson	
Joe Osowski	
Isaac Drewes	*organist*
Mark Kieffer	*video/sound*

Thanks to:
Event Hosts and all who are serving.

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A Note of Thanks

Thank you for being here today at Central Lutheran Church.

Music has a unique power to bring us together, to comfort us, to challenge us, and to articulate the emotions that words alone often cannot capture. Your presence and support are greatly appreciated.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our musicians, guest artists, directors, church staff, and the dedicated staff of volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make this event possible. Above all, thank you to you, for giving your time, attention, and spirit to this incredible afternoon.

We hope our offerings inspire, support, and uplift your spirit. If you are interested in learning more about Central Lutheran Church, please check out our website at www.centralmpls.org.

Joe Osowski
Central Choir Director

Ensembles

Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra

The Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (MSO) has been making music in the Twin Cities since 1982, when Steven Amundson and a group of St. Olaf Orchestra alumni founded the Central Chamber Orchestra. Now known as the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, MSO has grown into a full symphony orchestra of 85 members comprised of gifted musicians of all ages and backgrounds who share a talent, a passion, and a commitment to excellence. The Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra will present its next concert here at Central Lutheran on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 4 p.m., featuring cellist Tony Ross playing Dvořák's *Cello Concerto in B minor*. Check out the MSO website for more information at **msomn.org.**

Central Choir

The Central Choir is a dedicated ensemble of singers called to lead, inspire, and uplift the congregation through the power of sacred music. Serving as an integral part of the worship life at Central Lutheran Church, the choir strives to enhance the liturgical experience, giving voice to prayer and praise through a diverse and thoughtful repertoire. The ensemble regularly sings at the Sunday morning 10:30 a.m. service, as well as special seasonal liturgies throughout the church calendar, including Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Learn more at **centralmpls.org/adult-music-programs.**

St. Michael – Albertville High School Concert Choir

As the flagship organization for ISD #885, the St. Michael - Albertville (STMA) High School Music program prides itself on excellence and inclusion for the over 500 students that it serves. The STMA Concert Choir is one of 16 performing ensembles offered at STMA High School. Recent performance highlights include invitational performances with American Public Media, the State and Regional Chapters of the American Choral Directors Association, and the Minnesota Music Educators Association. More information about the choral program at STMA is available at **www.stmachoirs.org.**

Directors

René Clausen

Dr. René Clausen, emeritus conductor of The Concordia Choir, is known nationally and internationally as a premiere conductor and composer. He served as choral conductor at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota from 1986 to 2020. Clausen continued the choir's outstanding tradition and furthered its national and international reputation. He has been the Artistic Director of the twice ©Emmy award winning Concordia Christmas Concert which are frequently broadcast nationally by PBS. René Clausen is also a well-known composer and arranger, having written over seventy-five commissioned compositions which are frequently performed worldwide.

Steven Amundson

Conductor and composer Steven Amundson is the founding conductor of the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (originally called the Central Chamber Orchestra), which he led from 1982-87. He returned as the MSO's music director in the summer of 2024. At age 25, he joined the music faculty at St. Olaf College and spent 41 years building the St. Olaf Orchestra into one of the premiere college/university orchestras in the United States. Known for his inspiring and passionate presence on the podium, Amundson also composes, primarily for orchestra.

Joe Osowski

Joe Osowski is the Director of Vocal Music Education at St. Michael – Albertville (STMA) High School. He holds degrees in Music Education from North Dakota State University. At STMA High School, Osowski directs three curricular ensembles and one co-curricular ensemble. Mr. Osowski is also the conductor of Bring the Sing, a community singing initiative sponsored by Classical Minnesota Public Radio, Choral Director of the Minnesota Ambassadors of Music, and Director of the Central Choir at Central Lutheran Church. Joe Osowski was nominated as a Minnesota Teacher of the Year Semifinalist in 2016 and 2024 by Education Minnesota and was selected as a conducting delegate representing the United States for the 2017 International Conductors Exchange Program.

Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

An Everyday Church for Everyone

Central Lutheran
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centralmpls.org