

# Centering

NEWS OF CENTRAL LUTHERAN | MINNEAPOLIS



Central Lutheran  
MINNEAPOLIS

Lifelong  
Faith Formation

Where all can develop a closer relationship  
with God and deepen their call for mission.

AUTUMN 2016

# lifelong faith formation



**PASTOR STEPHANIE FRIESEN**

While camping with the middle school kids up at Camp Amnicon in August, I was reminded of all the things I truly love about youth ministry. Over meals, in our tents and on the river, we told stories about school and friends, joys and challenges. We talked about our families and sang so many songs. It was a wonderful week of connecting in unique ways. And, seeing Jeffrey with messy hair was an added bonus!

So as we begin another year of Sunday school, confirmation and faith formation, I am most excited about creating places and spaces for us to connect with each other. I am excited about getting to know the kids and their families and creating ways to build a web—a web that encompasses the entire community of Central Lutheran Church as one family standing together. A web that is anchored by our four commitments to worship, formation, community and generosity.

## 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

These seven middle school students spent a week at Camp Amnicon this past August exploring, learning, serving and building relationships.

## Sunday School and Confirmation Schedule

Our Sunday School schedule will be the same as it was last year. Classes will begin with a large group opening at 9:30 a.m. and branch out into classes after the opening. The confirmation and high school students will also meet between 9:30 a.m. and 10:20 a.m. as they did last year.

If we have registration information for your child from last year, we are requesting that you visit a registration table on one of three Sundays to update any information that may have changed. We will also have a detailed calendar and schedule for the fall.

Thanks for sharing your children with us—the kingdom’s pride and joy; and ours too.

## Homecoming weekend

**Sunday, September 11**

Sunday school, confirmation class and high school group resume

## Health Care Kit assembly

**Sunday, October 23**

## Bible presentation

**Sunday, October 30**

To 3 year olds and 2nd graders

## Christmas pageant rehearsals begin

**Sunday, November 6**

## Christmas pageant dress rehearsal

**Saturday, December 10**

## Christmas pageant

**Sunday, December 11**

## Lifelong Faith Formation for Adults

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

The Sunday morning forums resume. After the children, confirmands and youth depart for class the adults will take a look at the wonderful variety of Sunday morning and weekday opportunities for lifelong faith formation.

On Sunday, September 18, Pastor C begins a three-week series based on his book, *A Place of Encounter*. The church has no building code save proclaiming Christ crucified and risen. And how do we accomplish this—in a new design, in a renewal project, or in our daily use of the buildings we have?

## All Central Reads Book Conversation: 'The Good and Beautiful Life'

**Sunday, September 25, 11:45 a.m.**

You are invited to pick up a copy of *The Good and Beautiful Life* and prepare for an all Central reads conversation set for Sunday, September 25, at 11:45 a.m. Join Pastor Peter in this centering conversation on this second book in the series (no need to have read the first book last spring). Copies are available for purchase at the church office.

## Wednesday Evening Study with Pastor Peter

**Beginning on October 5 (six weeks), 6:15 p.m.**

You are invited to join the autumn Wednesday evening study with Pastor Peter. This year we will enter into three different studies, one this autumn, the second this winter and the third in the spring during the season of Easter.

### Autumn: 'The Good and Beautiful Community'

This autumn we will be led into deep centering conversation through *The Good and Beautiful Community* by James Bryon Smith. In this third book in the series (no need to have read the first two, each book stands alone), Smith leads us deep into the gifts of God in all good and beautiful communities. At the heart of each faith community is God's call to spiritual depth and care for all in need, a call that thrives in balance.

### Winter: Gospel of Matthew

This winter Pastor Peter will lead a Bible study on the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel for worship beginning in Advent. This six-week study will look at the key moments in Matthew's Gospel, and will provide a devotional reading guide so that by the end of the study you will have journeyed through the Gospel for your own personal, centering reading of Matthew.

### Spring: I Peter

In the spring we turn to a study of *I Peter*, the appointed readings for the second lesson in the season of Easter. This amazing book draws us into the early church and connects us with some of the ancient joys and challenges of living lives centered in Jesus Christ. We do feel a disconnect with the world and the values on display, but God has claimed us and we live in love and service as a part of God's emerging commonwealth.

## A Different Kind of Book Club

**Thursday, September 8, 1:30 p.m.,  
Fireside lounge**

We will meet to discuss *One Summer: America, 1927* by Bill Bryson. Discussion leader is Dennis Griffin. Contact David Johnson, [johnsond@umn.edu](mailto:johnsond@umn.edu) or Louise Griffin, [griffs2@comcast.net](mailto:griffs2@comcast.net) if you have questions. All readers are welcome to join us!

## Peace with Justice Forum

**Sunday, September 18 at 12:15 p.m.**

This month's theme is Protecting Civilians without Using Guns: Peter, "Put Down your Sword!" More people are displaced because of war and persecution for longer periods than any time since WWII. What can we do? Mel Duncan will describe how specially trained unarmed civilians are protecting civilians in some of the most violent places in the world today.

## Six-week Prayer Class with Pastor Kathie Nycklemoe

**Begins Sunday, October 2 at 1:30 p.m.**

You are invited to join Pastor Kathie Nycklemoe for a six-week class that explores the wide variety and depth for prayer forms. The class will meet for six Sundays, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. The class begins on Sunday, October 2 and concludes on Sunday, November 6.

Pastor Kathie serves as the pastor for spiritual formation at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Bloomington and is married to Pastor Peter. St. Stephen was also Pastor Stephanie's internship site.

Sign up for the class after worship at the sign up table or in the church office.

# community



**PASTOR MELISSA POHLMAN**

## Restoration Center

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

## Free Store

### Hours

Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to noon  
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!

Financial contributions are also appreciated. Donations may be brought to the main south entrance of the church anytime the campus is open.

We all have a busy season. In the Restoration Center that busy season is in late summer and early fall. When it seems like all the rest of the world is going to the cabin in August, our folks who are experiencing homelessness are trying to frantically find housing before school starts for their kids, before their housing voucher expires, and before it gets cold. No one wants to still be outside when the snow starts to fall. The Free Store gets busy with backpacks of school supplies and school clothes shopping. People come in starting to look for clothes that will get them through the colder nights, and we have people with new homes that need sheets and pots and pans.

Our Sabbath to End Homelessness is coming up this fall with two great adult forums on November 13 and November 20. Our DCEH (Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness) Unite to End Homelessness event is on Sunday, November 13 in the afternoon at Plymouth Congregational Church. It is slated to be a great event of music and education and action.

We talk a lot at Central and in our DCEH congregations about ending homelessness. It's not that we believe that no one will ever be homeless, but our goal is to make homelessness brief and rare for each person and family that find themselves without stable housing. In order to prevent more people from becoming homeless, we are joining with the other DCEH congregations to combine efforts on rental assistance. Often if we can prevent someone from being evicted we can stop homelessness for that family in its tracks. We will look for people who want to walk alongside these individuals and families as they seek stability. A pilot program will begin this fall.

We also have heard the need for people experiencing homelessness to be able to advocate for themselves through direct action and through legislative advocacy. DCEH is looking to establish Homeless Advocacy Networks in a few of our congregations, and Central was chosen as one of the first along with the Dignity Center at Hennepin Avenue Methodist. I will help shape the program, and we will need people who are blessed with gifts of hospitality to help facilitate. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please email me at [mpohlman@centralmpls.org](mailto:mpohlman@centralmpls.org) or Karen Knox at [kknox@centralmpls.org](mailto:kknox@centralmpls.org).

We are busy exploring God's promise for all in this season. Plan on joining us for one of these events or volunteer opportunities.

# generosity

I look forward to the arrival of autumn each year. It is rooted in the ancient rhythm of the restart of the church program year, the startup of school, the change in the weather and the amazing festivals of the church-year cycle that are on the horizon.

Mostly, I look forward to us all being back in the life-giving rhythm of church after being away for summer travels and adventures. Weekly worship grounds us each weekend, all year. With the arrival of autumn worship now leads us to lifelong faith formation on Sunday and during the week. The encounter with God in worship and through formative holy conversations opens our eyes to the needs of the vulnerable, poor and disenfranchised and so we are stirred up as a community to share the love of God. God calls us into deeply generous lives, both as a part of the discipline of faith but also because it connects us to the joy of God's generosity. Made in the image of a generous God, we are hard-wired to be generous people.

The Building Renewal Task Force has been meeting regularly since the congregational vote in June. They continue to move forward in the design process and are on track to have a presentation ready by mid-September to help us prepare for the congregational meeting set for Sunday, October 2, at 11:45 a.m. Key staff have joined in the work as we move into some of the ways the new design needs to function to support the wide variety of ministry and mission opportunities.

I am grateful for the hard work and prayerful attentiveness to the process by the Building Renewal Task Force: Hazel Reinhardt (chair), Kari Lyle, Ron Fiscus, Franklin Dietrich, Paul Troselius and Kevin Lile. I am also grateful for the time and attention that Pastor C, Pastor Melissa and Dave Rodriguez have given to the process. A number of additional staff and volunteers have been asked for specific insight into design components, as well. Soon it will be time for you all to have the chance to comment, help with insights and celebrate the design concept.

For now, save these dates for open meetings to help us all prepare for the October 2 congregational meeting:

- Sunday, September 18, 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 20, 10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 28, 10:30 a.m. or 6:15 p.m.

You can attend one or all of them. I will facilitate all the meetings, with the support of our architects and members of the Building Renewal Task Force.

I am grateful for you and your faithfulness. I am grateful to be a part of an amazing congregation, so committed to centering our lives in Jesus Christ. I am grateful that autumn arrives and the church program year kicks off, once again.



PASTOR PETER NYCKLEMOE

## Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 2 at 11:45 a.m.

A presentation and vote on the design and budget for the Building Renewal Project.

## Open Building Renewal Meetings

Sunday, September 18, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 20, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 20, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 28, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 28, 6:15 p.m.

# worship



PASTOR FOY CHRISTOPHERSON

## Contemplative Worship

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

## First Light Holy Communion

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

## Choral Eucharist

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

## Faith Formation

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

## Restoration Center Worship

Monday, 11:00 a.m.

## Bible Study

Monday, 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.

## Holy Baptism Festivals

October 8 and 9 and

November 19 and 20

To schedule a baptism, contact the church office or Life Passages coordinator Michael Dee.

## Central Crossings

Our series of worship and prayer events especially friendly for friends and guests.

## Music Events

Sunday, November 13

Mark your calendar for a large choral work presented by the Central Choir.

As our readings from Luke continue through September, Jesus teaches his disciples about the Kingdom using a variety of images. We kick off the program year gathering around the cross in an all-church festival celebrating Holy Cross Day: Homecoming Sunday—Rally around the Cross. Consider inviting a guest this day.

We started the school year off right by blessing all teachers and students with a general order of blessing for the school year on Labor Day weekend. We'll bless our Sunday School on September 10-11.

Following Labor Day our autumn Sunday schedule resumes with formation hour at 9:30 a.m. and community hour at 11:30 a.m. Holy Communion continues at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion continues at 5:00 p.m. Saturdays with appetizer fellowship following. In addition to our Central musical ensembles (Central Choir and Bell Choir—fresh from their summer break) music in September will also include a musical setting by Cantor Mark Sedio. Communion will be served standing at stations, with worshippers invited to pause to kneel at the communion rail.

Our seasonal worship team has shaped the autumn worship pattern to pick up language suggestive of the Holy Spirit that they found in their study and reflection on the lectionary texts. This urge to pray for the Spirit's guidance seemed especially appropriate as we look to our facility renewal and our mission and ministry as it lives into our mission statement and our mission area cluster organization.

Our seasonal worship team for autumn includes Judy Hedman, Sara Gunsch, Michael Dee, Karen Knox, Pastor C, Mark Sedio and Jane Lien.

## Saturday Evening's Worship Plan

During Contemplative Eucharist for Evening, expect quality music and preaching in a liturgy with fresh language that's about 45 minutes long. Come as you are, dressed for lawn work; or come dressed to spend the evening downtown dining and enjoying the arts scene. All are welcome. The service style varies seasonally. As the autumn deepens, the service will begin to feel more contemplative as we are sent out into the evening shadows. Communion on Saturdays will be served standing at stations during autumn. As always, after communion kneeling (as you are able) at the altar rail is always welcome. Fellowship follows.

## Sunday Morning's Worship Plan

First Light Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. begins at the baptism font, includes morning prayer psalms or psalms appointed for the day and grows as the service progresses. It is a Holy Communion service whose first half is patterned after Morning Prayer. As always, after communion kneeling (as you are able) at the altar rail is always welcome. Choral Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. is a full and festive service led by the Central Choir. It lasts a little over an hour.

### September 3/4



*Give up your possessions*

Invite your teacher to church: Blessing of teachers and

learners for the new academic year

**Reading:** Luke 14:25-33

### September 10/11



*Looking for the lost sheep, silver coin: Jesus eating with sinners*

Homecoming Sunday: Rally around the Cross

Come Home to the Cross

**Reading:** Luke 15:1-10

### September 17/18



*A shrewd manager: faithful in little, faithful in much; serving God or wealth*

**Reading:** Luke 16:1-13

### September 24/25



*Story of poor Lazarus and the wealthy man*

Recovery Sunday

**Reading:** Luke 16:19-31

### October 1/2



*Faith the size of a mustard seed*

Blessing of legal and justice professionals

**Reading:** Luke 17:5-10

### October 8/9



*One leper made clean by Jesus gives thanks*

Blessings for medical professions

**Readings:** 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15; Luke 17:11-19

### October 15/16



*The widow begs for justice*

New members received

**Readings:** Genesis 32:22-31; Luke 18:1-8

### October 22/23



*A Pharisee and tax collector pray*

Global Mission Sunday

**Readings:** Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22; Luke 18:9-14

### October 29/30



*Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see Jesus*

Reformation, bibles distributed, launch capital appeal

**Readings:** Isaiah 1:10-18; Luke 19:1-10

### November 5/6



*Jesus speaks of the resurrection*

All Saints

**Readings:** Job 19:23-27; Luke 20:27-38

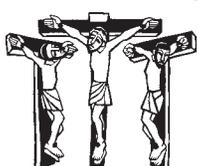
### November 12/13



*Jesus speaks of wars, endurance, betrayal and suffering*

**Readings:** Malachi 4:1-2; Luke 21:5-19

### November 19/20



*Jesus is crucified between two thieves*

Christ the King

**Readings:** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 23:33-43

### November 26/27



*The sudden coming of the Son of Man*

Advent

**Readings:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44



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## welcome

Welcome to this first edition of a new quarterly publication for Central Lutheran Church. The title is the invitation for lives of faith: centering. It is the invitation for deep centering in God as individuals and as a community of faith. In this digital age, the additional hope of this publication is to provide something in print for your kitchen counter.

These are invitations, schedules and articles that you can hold, note and return to without having to check your inbox or Facebook feed. We will continue with the weekly eSpirit and other social media, but a quarterly invitation for us to center our collective lives in invitations to go deep in faith seems right for this moment in our life together.

## Exploring the promise of God for all



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