

# 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.

SUMMER 2017

# generosity



**PASTOR PETER NYCKLEMOE**

## **Generosity Mission Cluster**

As defined by the constitution, the Annual Meeting is the highest governing authority of the congregation. Between congregational meetings, the Congregation Council and Executive Committee serve as the governing authority.

The standing committees that support the work of the Council are:

- The Nominating Committee
- The Audit Committee
- The Fiscal and Property Committee
- The Personnel Committee

The appointed teams and task force that currently support the ministry and mission goals are:

- The Finance Team
- The Building Renewal Task Force and the Kairos Capital Appeal Team
- The Anniversary Committee
- The Constitution Review Committee
- Planned for this summer: The Strategic Planning Task Force and Leadership Development Team

The Council also supports specific mission teams that provide leadership in key areas:

- Faith and Finance Team
- Global Mission Team
- Seminary Relations Team
- Shared Ministry Team

## **They will know we are Christians by our Generosity**

Some of us grew up singing “they will know we are Christians by our love.” This is true, from the visitors who enter Central’s sanctuary to every one of our neighbors. The way we show the love of God defines who we are and reveals how deeply we are connected to the God of love.

It is also true that “they will know we are Christians by our generosity.” If you know the song, maybe sing it for a few days and substitute the word generosity for love. It is a bit cumbersome, I know, but it helps introduce the reflections on the first pages of this edition of *Centering*.

In a culture that is so often defined by fear, scarcity and suspicion, what an opportunity for us as the followers of Jesus to be people of radical generosity. We are made in the image of a generous God. God’s generosity opens us to the gifts of hope, abundance and trust. We are made in God’s image, so generosity is hard-wired into our DNA. It takes a lot of energy on our part to resist being generous, and so little energy to live into the primary calling of God to be generous people.

We are called to be generous with one another, bearing one another’s burdens, speaking well of one another and seeking to live together with a sense of joy and wonder. We are called to be generous with our financial resources, growing into a tithe for the work of God’s church. We are called to be generous with our time and abilities, walking the extra mile and sharing our expertise to shape a just and caring world. In, with and under this call God is at work. God’s generosity is not a one-time gift; it is an ongoing promise for you. As God calls, God also equips, inspires and blesses you and me.

My prayer is that Central Lutheran be known as an intentional faith community, so deeply grounded in the love of God in Jesus Christ that all will know us by our generosity.

## **The Generosity Mission Area Cluster**

Central Lutheran’s mission statement is that we are “exploring the promise of God for all.” By God’s grace we understand that we explore this promise through worship, formation, community and generosity. In this fourth edition of *Centering* we turn to reflecting on the Generosity Mission Area Cluster as we continue to live into our mission and our life together.

This mission area 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. The generosity mission area is where worship, lifelong faith formation and community lead us in our shared discipleship path as the followers of Jesus Christ.

It is helpful to name the key areas gathered together in the Generosity Mission Cluster. While we do not have room to define all areas in this issue we can highlight a few. A list of how the Generosity Mission Cluster is defined gives an overview. See the list in the left sidebar.



# generosity

## Faith and Finance Ministry Team



*Kathy Fiscus, chair,  
Faith and Finance  
Ministry Team*

We will soon enter a period in the life of Central Lutheran that may seem chaotic and unsettled but before we do, let's first celebrate and appreciate the generosity that made our renovation possible. Many, many people contributed to the resounding success of our capital appeal for our Building Renewal Project. It is overwhelming to count the funds raised and the hours donated by so many. Can you feel God's spirit moving through our congregation in new ways?

The Faith and Finance Ministry Team is one of the stewardship teams at Central. Its members, Deborah Bauknight, Kathy and Ron Fiscus, Jim Heintz, Seth Peter and Cindy Stromberg, meet monthly with Pastor Peter to talk about ways to emphasize and focus on healthy, holistic, year-round financial stewardship. This long-range initiative seeks to build upon a culture of generosity that exists in our DNA as children of a generous God and in the DNA of this congregation.

Our ministry team and many others at Central espouse these principles:

- All we have been entrusted with belongs to God; we are only the caretakers and stewards of God's abundance.
- How we share our time, talent, treasure, and testimony will impact our relationship with God.
- God cares about how we spend all our money, not just what we give to and through Central Lutheran.
- Regular, generous, first fruit giving is a spiritual discipline. God loves a cheerful giver.

## Global Mission

The heart of global mission is defined by the ELCA's teaching on accompaniment.

### Central's Global Partnerships

- Wycliffe Bible Translators: Carl and Joy Follingstad and Victor and Sara Gaultney
- Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh
- China Service Ventures
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Africa, South Sudan
- ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission
- Lutheran World Relief Quilt Ministry

These great folks serve as the Global Mission Team: Bonnie Weisenburger (chair), Lorene Gilliksen, Lynda Minnick, Bill Nicol, Carol Henderson, Erik Kaaya, Harold and Arla Tollefson, and Pastor Peter.



*Pastor Mawien Ariik with the Global  
Mission Team: Pastor Peter, Bill Nicol,  
Lynda Minnick and Pastor Melissa.*

### Central's Local Mission Partnerships

Accompaniment is also the model that helps define the local mission work for Central Lutheran.

Central celebrates a number of partnerships:

- Augsburg Central Health Commons
- Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH)
- Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota
- Luther Seminary
- Cherish All Children
- Connections to the ELCA and Greater Church

## Tree of Life Lutheran

Central's new start initiative, Tree of Life Lutheran, is taking root in the North Loop neighborhood of downtown! As its mission developer, I am truly amazed at Central's generosity of spirit to God's mission beyond your walls.

The past year has been full of conversation, prayer, planning, learning and relationship building. In November, we began monthly conversation on faith and daily life at The Freehouse Brewery on Washington Ave. For the past seven months "Tuesday Topics" have ranged from creation care, to work/vocation and Sabbath rest. Now, in addition to these 3rd Tuesdays, Tree of Life is ready to begin a new pattern of 1st Sunday evenings!

From May through October, monthly gatherings on the first Sunday of the month will alternate between service projects one month and evening prayer with dinner gatherings the next. **You're invited to Tree of Life's first worship and dinner gathering on Pentecost evening, June 4 at 6-8 p.m., at our new worship space, 514 Studios at 514 N 3rd St.** Please save the date for vespers, dinner and conversation on hearing God in our own languages.

Whether or not you are able to join worship with Tree of Life in the coming months, your vision, support and prayers for this new community are simply invaluable. I am honored and grateful to be in ministry with all of you and look forward to where the Spirit will lead our work together.

Pastor Marissa Sotos



**TREE of LIFE**  
LUTHERAN

# 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, computer access, 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 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 may be brought to the main south entrance of the church anytime the campus is open.

Financial contributions are also appreciated.

## Waiting and Moving

As we are patiently (and some days impatiently) waiting for the triple-wide trailer to be delivered out to the boot area of our parking lot, the Restoration Center is humming along. The folks who work in the Free Store and the Health Commons have been reducing their inventory and getting all things in order for the big move. We expect that we will close on Thursday, May 25 for the last time in the education wing and reopen in the trailer on June 5. All dates are of course subject to change as we learn to be more flexible. The one date that holds firm is May 31. That's when the Augsburg College football team will be here to move the big stuff. The meal will move into the sanctuary hopefully in mid to late July, and will be catered when our kitchen stops being functional.

The Garden Ministry Team knows that since demolition won't happen until the second half of the summer they are planning and planting full steam ahead. Many of the things they plant will be out of the way and many of the planters can be moved as they need to be. They are a wonderfully talented group of folks who know a lot about how wonderfully God has created the world around us.

All of our advocacy groups are invited to come together for a several hour retreat on June 4 after worship. Those groups include: Our C3 (Central Creation Cares) team who do great ministry in protection of God's creation through education, service, and advocacy. The Heading Home Central team that works to end homelessness through advocacy at the city and state levels of government. They also work closely with the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness, which is an interfaith group of 16 congregations who share in advocacy and direct service work with people experiencing homelessness. Our Peace with Justice Ministry Team works to host community events that draw from both synods on pertinent topics to peace and justice and the church. Our Street Voices of Change group meets every week to work on changing the conditions of being homeless in Minneapolis. Most of the people who attend are experiencing homelessness or they have experienced it in their past. They use an organizing model to agitate and effect change at a shelter, city, county and state level. We also have a new found interest in the work of Isaiah and in community organizing. Needless to say, we are often doing similar work, but on different issues. If any of these ideas or topics interest you please join us on June 4 to help us shape what advocacy and social justice will look like going forward at Central.

No one said that you have to be still while you wait. So while we wait to move into our temporary home and while we wait for our more long term home to be built, we will keep moving forward in the Community Mission Cluster in order that we can explore the promise of God for all and work toward a transforming, nurturing, life-giving community.

# formation

## Summer is Calling

With summer comes the great freedom to break out of our rhythms and routines and enter into a season of carefree experiential living. We hear creation calling us from all directions—from the spring peepers in the ponds to the thunderous crashes in the clouds. Summer is the season of life.

We will be called into life in a variety of ways throughout the summer in the Faith Formation Cluster here at Central. For many of us, this summer means new life in a new and temporary space. Quilts and prayer shawls, pew bag materials and Sunday school supplies are being relocated. New classrooms will be imagined and created throughout the summer months as we anticipate moving forward with our new building. And all the while, we will continue to build and tend to our relationships throughout the summer—bringing new life to our small groups and classes. Here's a snapshot of some of the things we have planned for summer:

**Vacation Bible School** will be offered on three Sundays: June 11, July 16 and August 20. Our theme is Under Construction and the students will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for stories, crafts, activities and snacks. Following class, participants and their families are invited to stay for lunch. This program is designed for our three year-olds through our 5th graders. Information for signing up will be available soon.

**Service and Fun Days** are planned for June 19-21 for our middle and high school students. We will spend time together serving the community, getting to know each other better and growing in faith. For more information or to sign up, please contact Pastor Stephanie.

**A Cradle Roll Potluck** is planned for Saturday, June 24 for our youngest members and their families. We will host a gathering for infants and toddlers with extra help on hand so parents can meet and get to know others here at Central with little ones. We'll gather at 4 p.m. and stay for worship.

**The Young Adults** continue to meet monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We meet at 7 p.m. and we try something new each month so watch the *Spirit* for information on upcoming events.

**Camp Amnicon** will be home to 25 of us this summer as our middle and high school students journey north for a week of wilderness adventure. Our high school students will explore Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands in a Voyageur Canoe with Pastor Peter and our middle school students will ride the Flambeau river stopping to explore and camp along the way with Pastor Stephanie.

New friends, new experiences, new life—this summer, we invite you to explore a new rhythm or routine with us in the Faith Formation Cluster at Central. Come as a participant or come as a volunteer. All are welcome!



PASTOR STEPHANIE FRIESEN

## Children

Vacation Bible School: Sundays  
9:30-11:30 a.m., June 11, July 16 and  
August 20

## Middle and High School Youth

Upcoming events include:

- **June 19-21** — Service and fun days for middle/high school youth
- **July 30-August 4** — Middle school youth to Camp Amnicon

## A Different Kind of Book Club

Meetings are in the fireside lounge, 1:30-3:00 p.m. All readers are welcome.

- **June 8** - *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor. New York Times bestseller; Silver Nautilus Award winner focusing on the spirituality inherent in everyday things. Mons Teig is discussion leader.

# worship



PASTOR D. FOYN CHRISTOPHERSON

## Contemplative Holy Communion for Evening

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

## First Light Holy Communion

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

## Choral Eucharist

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

*(The above worship schedule continues through the summer months.)*

## Restoration Center Worship

Monday, 11:00 a.m.

## Bible Study

Monday, 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.

## Naantali Chamber Choir Concert

Thursday, June 8, 7 p.m., Central Lutheran

The Naantali Chamber Choir's concert program contains music from 16th century to contemporary. Naantali Chamber Choir was founded in 1978. It is an amateur mixed choir of 30 singers (18 women, 12 men). Antti Haapalainen, a composer and music theory teacher has conducted the choir since 2012. More info: [finnsourc.org/event/naantali-chamber-choir-concert/](http://finnsourc.org/event/naantali-chamber-choir-concert/)

## What does generosity in worship look like?

Good liturgy, you probably know intuitively, is by definition excessive and generous... like a good party, a wedding banquet, or a grand celebration. It's impossible to throw a REALLY GOOD stingy party. The same is true with liturgy. Efficiency and convenience are not inherent in generous liturgy. Liturgy seeks to be deliberate and bountiful and beautiful. There is nothing inherently efficient about party balloons, wedding cake, or Easter trumpets.

The word liturgy means literally "a work of the people," but more colorfully "a public good undertaken at great private cost." Thank you for the way you generously support this public good we do week-in and week-out. I'm enormously impressed, continually amazed, and deeply grateful for all of our worship life volunteers and leaders, all you servants of God who bless the Lord and know so well how to pray together and care for the assembly at prayer. There is generosity of commitment, time, and concern for the forming and shaping of our worship life. Generosity in worship looks like that.

There is also the generosity of the gospel, of course, that is in the message we share each week—generous forgiveness, abundant love, extravagant welcome, amazing grace.

And there is the generosity of the services themselves. Symbols, we are warned, can shrivel over time, with neglect. I hope you find the symbols and rites in our worship life to be generously tended to, observed and celebrated, and rich in meaning. Generous preparation, generous seasonal environment, generous vestments, generous pieces of bread, generous water (and oil... grin), generous music lovingly prepared. I hope the way we observe the sacraments and seasonal rites is generous and abundant, reflective of God's generous grace and generously offered to all.

Liturgical generosity can be counter-cultural. Our American passion for convenience, for doing everything in the easiest and most effortless way, is one of our great liturgical handicaps. The essence of liturgy is that it is play, imagining the kingdom, doing apparently useless things with great solemnity, engaging in the generosity and excess that belongs to festivity. Using things not because they are appropriate and beautiful but because they are convenient is an assault upon the senses of people who have gathered for one of the grave and inspiring moments of their lives (Hovda, adapted). You deserve to experience with all your senses the hospitality and generosity of the gospel.

I hope you are generously welcomed and that you generously welcome others. I hope regular worshipers and traveling guests find that same welcome.

Come, these good gifts are for you... for you to explore... and for you to share.

**June 3/4**



*The Spirit poured out*  
Pentecost

**Reading:** John 20:19-23

**June 10/11**



*Living in the community of the Trinity*

The Holy Trinity;  
Baptism festival;  
Silver Bells;  
Healing prayers

**Reading:** Matthew 28:16-20

# Worship Life

June 2017 -  
September 2017

**June 17/18**



*The sending of the twelve*

Father's Day blessing

**Reading:** Matthew 9:35-10:8

**June 24/25**



*The cost of discipleship*

**Reading:** Matthew 10:24-39

**July 1/2**



*Welcome Christ in those he sends*

**Reading:** Matthew 10:40-42

**July 8/9**



*The yoke of discipleship*

**Reading:** Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**July 15/16**



*The parable of the sower and the seed*

Healing prayer

**Reading:** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**July 22/23**



*The parable of the weeds*

**Reading:** Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**July 29/30**



*Parables of the reign of heaven*

**Reading:** Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**August 5/6**



*Christ feeding the five thousand*

Baptism festival

**Reading:** Matthew 14:13-21

**August 12/13**



*Jesus walking on the sea*

**Reading:** Matthew 14:22-33

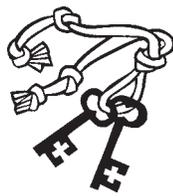
**August 19/20**



*The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter*

**Reading:** Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

**August 26/27**



*The profession of Peter's faith*

**Reading:** Matthew 16:13-20

**September 2/3**



*The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter*

**Reading:** Matthew 16:21-28



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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

Photo from the 10:30 a.m. Easter Service. Emmie Brenke and Juan Carlos Evert join in the procession to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Photo by Tom Baker, Manitou Photos.



Exploring the promise of God for all



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