

# 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 2017

# faith formation



PASTOR STEPHANIE FRIESEN

## Faith Formation Calendar

Looking ahead, here are some of the dates and events you'll want to add to your calendars:

- **Homecoming Weekend**  
September 9/10
- **Sunday School Begins**  
September 17
- **All Central Openings**  
intergenerational programming and events scheduled for the first Sunday of every month
- **Confirmation Retreat**  
October 7 and 8
- **Reformation Sunday**  
October 29
- **Sunday School Christmas Program**  
December 17 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Family Camp at Camp Wapo**  
January 26-28
- **High School Retreat at Camp Amnicon**  
February 24-25
- **Confirmation Weekend**  
April 28/29
- **End of Sunday School**  
May 20
- **ELCA National Youth Gathering**  
Houston, Tex.: June 26 -July 2
- **Service and Fun Days**  
(to be determined)
- **Camp Amnicon**  
(to be determined)

We are setting up for another year of great faith formation at Central after a summer filled with wonder and adventure.

Our preschool and elementary students learned of God's creative and ongoing work among us in our Vacation Bible School program "Under Construction." Our middle and high school students experienced service, fun and adventure both here in Minneapolis and in the great wilderness of Camp Amnicon. Our young adults and the OWLS gathered throughout the summer months for fun and fellowship, and we are excited to enter into the fall season.

As we look toward the 2017-2018 calendar, we are staged for a number of temporary changes to the Sunday morning routine. Our space has transformed and we are ready to begin a year in new classrooms until our building is completed next fall. While our spaces may be different this year, our programming for children, youth and family remains the same.

You may register your child at the Sunday school tables on September 3 and 10 or by contacting Pastor Stephanie.

All of our youth programming has been moved to the lower narthex. This includes:

- The nursery – set up with all the favorite toys and furniture
- Sunday school classroom – relocated with familiar furniture and beloved teachers
- Confirmation class – complete with snacks and supplies
- High school space – designed for great conversation and learning

Students and their families are invited to tour the new space in the lower narthex (accessible by stairs at the entrance to the sanctuary from the back) on Homecoming Sunday scheduled for September 10. There will be time to meet Sunday school teachers, visit classrooms and connect with old and new friends. Regular Sunday school will begin on September 17 at 9:30 a.m.

While under construction, adult faith formation will occur in small groups. We encourage participation in all of the old familiar ways including the Monday and Wednesday Bible Studies and A Different Kind of Book Club.

In addition to these significant dates, we will continue to add programming throughout the year for our young adults, the OWLS and other small groups. Watch the *Spirit* and the e-news for more opportunities as they arise.

As we navigate the coming year while under construction, we encourage everyone to participate in fellowship after worship on Saturday nights and between services at 9:30 on Sundays. Coffee, treats and opportunities to connect and establish relationships is at the core of what we do at Central.

# faith formation

## Adult Faith Formation

The autumn invitations for adult lifelong faith formation are creative and engaging. In some ways they are shaped by the Building Renewal Project and the limited space during construction. In many ways they are shaped by the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and the invitation to grow deeper in prayer and a contemplative life. Please review the invitations and plan to attend as many as your schedule allows. Watch the *Spirit* weekly for more details.

## Sundays After Worship

On Sunday mornings at 11:45 a.m., a variety of adult lifelong faith formation will be offered. Every third Sunday the Peace with Justice forum is offered, beginning on September 17. Beginning on September 24 and running through Reformation weekend, the pastors and cantors will offer an essay printed in the *Spirit*, with the opportunity for conversation on the topic at 11:45 a.m. The emphasis will be on the gifts of the Reformation that continue to impact worship, formation, community and generosity. Here are the dates and topics for the autumn on the way to the celebration of the 500th anniversary:

- **September 24:** Luther and the Catechism, led by Pastor Stephanie
- **October 1:** Luther and Worship, led by Pastor C
- **October 8:** Luther and Preaching, led by Pastor Peter
- **October 15:** Luther and the Neighbor, led by Pastor Melissa
- **October 22:** Luther and Music, led by Cantor Mark
- **October 29:** Luther and the Hymn of the Day, led by Cantor Jane

## Monthly Listening for God, a time of contemplative prayer led by Pastor Peter

You are invited to join Pastor Peter for a monthly time of contemplative prayer. Pastor Peter and 12 people have been meeting each month for contemplative prayer and the opportunity to go deeper in faith and prayer. With the beginning of the Building Renewal Project, this prayer circle is enlarging, and all are invited. It is asked that you make a commitment to the group and the prayer time for the program year, September-April.

Pastor Peter will introduce and lead a different form of contemplative prayer each month. The prayer time is followed by the opportunity to reflect on the experience and to take home the prayer form to tend to a deeper spiritual life. The Listening for God time will meet on the third Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at Central. The first meeting will be on September 17. Here are the dates for you to review for your calendar, and while a monthly commitment is hoped for, of course there will be times when you cannot attend.

- Sunday, September 17
- Sunday, October 15
- Sunday, November 19
- Sunday, December 17
- Sunday, February 18
- Sunday, March 18
- Sunday, April 15

## A Different Kind of Book Club

**Thursday, September 14, 1:30 p.m., upper narthex**  
Our book will be Ari Shavit's *My Promised Land*, a highly-acclaimed study of developments in Israel. The discussion will be led by Central members Charles and Karla Moline. Chez served as senior pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Old Jerusalem during the 1970s. Contact convener Lilly Olson at olsonka@aol.com if you have questions.

## Art and Soul, a Contemplative Prayer Retreat

**Saturday, September 30**  
Join artist Robyn Sand Anderson and the Rev. Kathie Nycklemoe for a day of listening for God through visual, tangible, and contemplative prayer forms. No art or prayer experience necessary. This day retreat will run from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., and be held at the Mount Olivet Retreat Center. Details and the cost for the retreat will be published in the *Spirit*.

## Autumn Wednesday night Bible study with Pastor Peter

Bible study is one of the keys for all adults and lifelong faith formation. This autumn we turn to Paul's Letter to the Romans, especially given the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the impact of Romans on Martin Luther. The study meets on Wednesday nights from 6:00– 7:10 p.m., concluding in time for choir members to get to rehearsal. We will begin with evening prayer, with a special emphasis on the hymns of the Reformation.

We will meet at Central in the lower narthex, so participants will need to be able to use the stairs to access the Bible study. The Bible study materials will be available on September 30 or October 1, or at the first session on October 4. The study will meet on October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1 and 8.

## 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: emergency rental assistance, employment services, clothing, meals, worship, Bible study, support groups, and more! The Augsburg Central Health Commons, which provides basic medical services, is a collaboration with Augsburg College.

### Free Store

#### Hours

Monday: 9:30 to 11:00 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 may be brought to any worship service and/or the triple-wide trailer in the south end of the parking lot during the hours above. Financial contributions are also appreciated.

**Free Store**  
**50th Anniversary**  
**Celebration**  
**October 14, 15 and 16**

Over and over this autumn we will hear the stories of God and God's people being generous and forgiving. Over and over we will hear how those around God and God's people react with horror and shame and try to throw that generosity out the door because they seemed to know better or how the rules were to be kept or what was right. It strikes me in these days that we are not all that far from these biblical moments, and the impulse to be generous and gracious and compassionate and forgiving is needed more than ever.

This has been true in the midst of our community too. This summer was one full of big moving pieces including getting a triple-wide trailer delivered and installed in the parking lot so that the Free Store and the Health Commons could continue while the building is under construction. We did all of this moving in preparation for us to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Clothes Closet (now known as the Free Store). We will celebrate and highlight this amazing ministry on the weekend of October 14, 15 and 16. Look for more details as the weekend gets closer.

The sanctuary got prepared for its expanded role as the center of our lives at Central. The Monday community meal and worship moved into the space in August and our folks are incredibly thankful that lunch gets to continue. We can be proud of the ingenuity and hard work and flexibility that went into making this successful.

Another ministry opportunity that has been heavily reliant on having a stable space to meet and a meal provided is the Street Voices of Change. This group of people who are experienced in homelessness meet every Thursday morning to work on organizing the community for the sake of meaningful change. They are currently working on getting one of the winter shelters converted to a year-round facility through Hennepin County funding mechanisms. On our biggest meeting days we are 80 people deep and hungry for breakfast. Now that our building is underway, our neighbors to the west opened their space to us and we are meeting at Westminster Presbyterian for the year. It is such a blessing.

The beautiful gardens that surround our building are now gracing congregant's yards as everyone swooped in to give each plant a new home before the construction begins. At times it looked like we had some really big gophers around the church yard! This is not the year for us to run for a prize, but it is a rebuilding year as we get ready for partnering with the construction crew in the spring to see what can be imagined anew for our green space at Central.

As you can imagine not all of these highly complex changes went the exact way any of us imagined on the first try. None of them have been easy or simple. There have been tears of anger and sadness. There have been moments of tension and pain. There have also been beautiful times of graciousness for one another. There has been more generosity than any one of us could have imagined. There has been forgiveness time after time after time. I am so thankful for this community of generosity, graciousness, compassion, and forgiveness.

## generosity

### Generosity that makes a difference, and opens us to surprising joy

We are made in the image of a generous God. Generosity is hard-wired into our very DNA. It is a part of who we are and how we live as the followers of Jesus Christ. Each of us has a personal story of how someone's generosity changed our lives. We all have mentors who encourage us and people who have gone the extra mile for us, and so we are changed. We have personal stories of God's generosity, of how God's love, mercy and healing changed our lives and opened us to possibilities that we could not have imagined.

We now have much to celebrate and so much to give thanks for as a congregation. God's generosity is apparent everywhere we look when we gather at Central and when we are sent out to be the church in our daily lives. The remarkable response to last fall's capital appeal has empowered the work that is now transforming the facility. Our joy is renewed and now we witness God at work in a renewed vessel. Your openness to live generous lives is one of the ways that God is at work. We set the goal at \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 has been committed to the Building Renewal Project. Truly we are surprised by joy, and now we will spend the year watching the emerging of the new facility. Thank you so much for your generosity, for all the ways you respond to God's gracious invitation to live in faith.

This autumn God's call is for us to live into this renewed joy. In many ways we are surprised by this joy. Who would have thought that one year later we would be moving forward with such an exciting plan for renewal? God knew, and invited us into the surprise.

It is now time to celebrate all the ways that we are surprised by joy. We will celebrate the Reformation 500 and the surprising ways God continues to reform the church. We will celebrate creative ways that we worship and are formed in faith in the sanctuary and lower narthex. We will celebrate the surprising joy of Monday worship and the community meal served in the sanctuary, and how the communion table is so deeply connected to all tables where food and fellowship are shared. We will celebrate the surprising ways God meets us in mission here and around the world and we will give thanks for each and every opportunity to share the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ.

Your generosity makes a difference. Thank you for all the ways you are open to God's gift of surprising joy.

### Global Missions Weekend: October 21/22

Global Missions and Central's generous support will be celebrated in worship the weekend of October 21/22. Central has a long history of mission support, partnering with many global partnerships. These partnerships will be lifted up in the prayers of the church. One partnership will be specifically highlighted this year: The ELCA's Young Adults in Global Missions (YAGM).



PASTOR PETER NYCKLEMOE

### Surprising Joy, Emerging Vessels

Last autumn we celebrated Renewed Joy, Renewed Vessels as the theme of the capital appeal. This autumn we see God at work in surprising ways as the facility is transformed, emerging in a new way. We also give thanks for all the surprising joy in our lives and how God calls us to growth in our generosity. We are always emerging, constantly being made new by God's love in Jesus Christ.

As a part of the autumn's Surprising Joy, Emerging Vessels generosity invitation we will have the opportunity to make our pledges or intentions as an act of faith during worship over the weekend of November 18/19. Materials will be sent out to each home this autumn. In addition, on All Saints' Sunday there will be an initiative to connect with all the households of Central Lutheran by phone or through a short visit to say thanks and celebrate our life together as a congregation.

Watch for more details later in September. Thank you for your generosity with your financial support, your time and abilities, all given for the ministry and mission of the church here and through Central Lutheran Church.

**SURPRISING JOY.**  
**Emerging Vessels.**

# worship



PASTOR D. FOY CHRISTOPHERSON

## Contemplative Holy Communion for Evening

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

## Holy Communion at the Break of Day

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

## Choral Eucharist

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

## Restoration Center Worship

Monday, 11:00 a.m.

## Bible Study

Monday, 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.

## Central Choir Rehearsals begin September 6!

The Central Choir is one of our congregation's longest ongoing groups offering a different dimension regarding worship participation. The choir rehearses each Wednesday from 7:15 to 9:00 p.m. First rehearsal is Wednesday, September 6. The choir sings September through May at the 10:30 worship service. No audition is necessary but good music reading skills are a must.

To join, simply come to one of our regular weekly rehearsals. For more information, email Mark at msedio@centralmpls.org.

## Autumn Worship Life

Our summer/autumn/November worship team has worked with our pastors and cantors to develop a lovely seasonal pattern for worship this autumn. The autumn texts and patterns include harvest themes and quotes from Reformation hymnody.

For worship on **Saturday evenings** (5:00 p.m.) we'll return to the Marty Haugen/Susan Briehl Holy Communion setting for evening, "Unfailing Light." The flexibility of the new pew chairs will allow us to further develop the unique ethos of this evening assembly for worship. A lively reception and fellowship follow in the sanctuary.

For Sunday **Holy Communion at the break of day** (8:30 a.m.) we'll continue to add psalmody and Morning Prayer elements as this service continues to develop its own identity as a way to begin the Lord's Day quietly around the font with psalmody. Coffee and fellowship are offered before and after worship in the sanctuary.

The 10:30 Sunday **Choral Eucharist** includes the weekly leadership and musical gifts of the Central Choir (after Labor Day) or other musical ensembles. September 3 - October 15: ELW Setting 1; October 22 : Global music; October 29 - November 26: ELW Setting 9; coffee and fellowship follow.

**Monday worship** (11:00 a.m.) in the sanctuary follows a pattern of service orders on a monthly rotation. The community meal follows.

## Autumn Opportunities

- WelcomeLife Ushers
- Present the gifts
- Communion ministers
- Chair wrangler
- Sunday receptionist
- Saturday or Sunday greeter for worship
- Coffee host

## Reformation 500

### Central Choir and Basilica Choir

Sunday, October 15, 3:00 p.m.

Vespers ("of reconciliation") at the Basilica of St. Mary

### Reformation Festival

October 27-28

Reformation 500 worship hosted by Central Worship on Saturday afternoon (10/28 4 p.m.) at Central Lutheran Church with ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preaching, National Lutheran Choir, and massed choirs from area churches with Cantor Mark conducting. Hosted by Luther Seminary and the National Lutheran Choir and sponsored by Central Lutheran Church.

### Annual Downtown Congregations Thanksgiving Service

Thursday, November 23, 10 a.m., St. Mark's Episcopal Church

## September 2/3



*The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter*

Labor Day blessing; blessing of academic year, teachers, learners, and backpacks

Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

## September 16/17



*The parable of forgiveness in the community of faith*

Healing prayers

Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

## October 7/8



*The parable of the vineyard owner's son*

Baptism festival

Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

## October 28/29



*Loving God and neighbor*

Reformation 500 - Saturday, 4 p.m. (replaces 5 p.m. service)

Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

## November 18/19



*Slaves entrusted with talents*

Generosity intention blessing; blessing of those who work in commerce

Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

## September 9/10



*Reconciliation in the community of faith*

Homecoming weekend; blessing of Sunday school teachers and learners

Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

## September 23/24



*The parable of the vineyard workers*

Bible distribution

Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

## October 14/15



*The parable of the unwelcome guest*

Free Store 50th anniversary; healing prayers; blessing of health/medical professionals; Central Choir concert at Basilica, 3 p.m.

Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

## November 4/5



*Blessed are the poor in spirit*

All Saints; cemetery/columbarium visits; healing prayers

Reading: Matthew 23:1-12

## November 25/26



*The separation of sheep and goats*

Christ the King; baptism festival

Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

## September 30/October 1



*A parable of doing God's will*

Blessing of legal/justice professionals; blessing of animals (@ Basilica)

Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

## October 21/22



*A teaching on giving to the emperor and to God*

Global Mission Weekend; new members

Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

## November 11/12



*Wise and foolish bridesmaids*

Veterans' Day; Sabbath to End Homelessness

Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

# Worship Life September 2017 - November 2017



Central Lutheran  
MINNEAPOLIS

**CENTRAL LUTHERAN**  
333 South 12th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Presorted  
First-Class Mail  
**U.S. Postage PAID**  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 32349

### 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

This past August, the high schoolers and middle schoolers, along with Pastor Stephanie and Pastor Peter, traveled to Camp Amnicon. Pictured here are the 12 middle schoolers about to adventure out on the Flambeau River.



## Exploring the promise of God for all

**CENTRAL LUTHERAN**  
333 South 12th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
612-870-4416  
[centrallmpls.org](http://centrallmpls.org)

**'CENTERING'**  
A quarterly publication of Central Lutheran. Questions or comments may be directed to the editor, Sara Masters at [smasters@centrallmpls.org](mailto:smasters@centrallmpls.org)

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America | [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)  
and the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness | [www.dceh.org](http://www.dceh.org)