



the Spirit

DECEMBER 2, 2018



life together



Images of God

How we envision God shapes our life. How we envision God shapes how we honor relationships and respond to the ever-changing needs in the world. If we envision God as a God of unconditional love, we live and relate from that place of love. If we envision a God of

grace, we live expecting God's surprising and renewing presence. If we envision a God of mercy, we live expecting God to restore in gentle ways.

How do you envision God? How does your vision of God shape your life of worship, prayer, growth, engagement, justice work, peace seeking and hope? How is your vision of God grounded in scripture? How is your vision of God shaped by your experience of God, alive and at work in your life?

As the season of Advent begins, we hear powerful images of God in the readings this weekend. In Luke's Gospel we turn again to images of God that are tied to God's return. There are rumblings in the gospel reading of signs, distress and foreboding. The rumblings and distress have the potential to shape our vision of God, most likely connected to fear. Jesus invites us to look past the distress and look to him in Luke 21: "Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

How does Jesus draw near for you? How do you experience the redemption that God provides each day? These questions draw us into the living presence of God, and into an image of God that brings comfort, hope and peace.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Peter

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Note

As you look to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day on this first weekend in Advent, please note the worship times planned for this year. There is one change to note for Christmas Eve. The early Christmas Eve worship is moving up an hour. After helpful feedback, many have suggested an earlier time for this service to allow families to get home for celebrations. It also provides the staff more time to gather with family and friends before returning for the late service.

- Christmas Eve: 3:00 p.m. Twilight Service of Blessing or 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Holy Communion
- Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m. Contemplative Christmas Day Communion

100th Anniversary Year Highlights

Here are the upcoming key dates of celebrating our 100th Anniversary for you to note:

January 2019

12/13/14: Guest Preacher: Rev. Kristine Stedje and potluck on Sunday

February 2019

10: Annual Meeting
17: Historical Hymn Sing

March 2019

3: Family Fun Event - 2DefyGravity

Abundant Generosity – Making our Faith Promises

We continue to gather faith promises, our financial intentions, as an act of worship. If you were not able to be here for intention weekend, you can make your faith promise this weekend as an act of worship. Simply place your faith promise, your financial intention, in the offering plate along with your weekly offering. We make our faith promises as an act of faith because of God's love for us. Ushers have extra intention packets if you forgot to bring yours with you today. Thank you for your abundant generosity!

Sunday Morning Adult Forum Resumes December 2

The adult forums officially resume this Sunday. We begin the conversation on faith stories. The deacon and pastors will begin this year's emphasis, then joined by members of the congregation who will share their faith story. Within each faith story God is at work, and the connections in your life will unfold.

This weekend Pastor C leads the forum on the faith story of the church, viewed through the lens of the liturgical calendar and the common lectionary that shapes weekly worship and prayer. Plan to join Pastor C on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the lower narthex. You can access the lower narthex by the elevator, or the welcome desk stairs and lower hallway

worship and formation

Guide to Prayer

Listening for God

As the season of Advent begins we return to the theme of Jesus' return in Luke's Gospel. The reading invites us to ponder our image of God and how our image of God shapes how we hear this lesson. As we center our lives of faith in a God of unconditional love, our ear is tuned to listen for love. If our image of God is one of judgement, our ear is tuned to listen in fear.

How do you hear this passage, how is your ear tuned to listen for God's voice of love, mercy and grace? Jesus said: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:25-28)

Listening to your life

Light in the darkness is a hopeful image in the season of Advent. A candle is one of the ancient symbols of God's presence. Pause for a moment each day, light a candle to welcome God's presence. Take time to listen for God's word of unconditional love for you. Each day prayerfully ponder the question: what does it mean that my redemption is drawing near? How is God at work bringing life from death, hope from despair and peace from distress? Offer all of this to God in daily prayer.

Sunday School Pageant

Our Sunday School children have been working hard at learning songs and preparing readings to share with you next week in worship. On Sunday, December 9 during our 10:30 worship service, the children will present their Christmas pageant. Please join us to welcome and encourage our 3 year-olds through 5th graders. They are excited to share what they've learned with you.

Central Choir to Offer Vivaldi's "Magnificat"

On Sunday, December 16 (the third Sunday of Advent) the Central Choir, along with soloists Froya Olson, Robin Helgen and Brianna Eklund, will be presenting Antonio Vivaldi's setting of the Magnificat as part of the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Members of the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra will provide instrumental accompaniment. Come, mark this Advent season in a special way.

Holy Communion Class

Saturday, December 15, 10:00 a.m.

NOTE: we have rescheduled this class for December 15.

Please join Pastor C and Pastor Stephanie for a morning of bread baking and instruction around the sacrament of Holy Communion on Saturday, December 15 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you, your children or someone you know is interested or curious about what Holy Communion means for us, please plan to spend a few hours with us. For the parents of our Sunday School children, this is a Milestone class for our students who have or have not received their First Communion. We look forward to spending time with you and talking about this remarkable meal. If you have questions, please email Pastor Stephanie at sfriesen@centralmpls.org. You can sign up at the welcome desk.

Advent Worship and Dinner with Tree of Life

Sunday, December 2, 6:00-7:30 p.m., MAVEN, 1621 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

Come celebrate Advent, the church season of waiting and expectation. We'll be gathering around the dinner table for food, singing, readings, prayer, reflection and service. You are welcome!

This Sunday evening is at MAVEN, our temporary location at 1621 E. Hennepin Ave. Free parking is around the back of the building and the entrance is also in the back middle, next to the loading docks. The studio will be directly to your left as you walk in.

If you'd like to bring something, beverages and dessert are always appreciated. We'll make sure dinner has veggie and gluten free options. Come on over! Questions? Contact Pastor Marissa at PastorMarissa@TreeofLifeMpls.org.

community

Sunday Meals to Restart December 9

After a construction hiatus, we will restart a light lunch on Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. service on December 9. Please stay after to enjoy fellowship and food. A freewill offering will be collected.

Drop off Areas for Handicapped and Others

There are two areas designed for dropping off for those with limited mobility and for general drop off. The first is in the front of the new addition on 12th Street at the curbside. With the new addition it is now the closest drop off with immediate entrance into the great room and the sanctuary. The second is at the loading dock on 4th Avenue. There is sidewalk access, just past the loading doors, that brings you right under the canopy, and to the south doors. Note that the electronic assist door is one of the four doors in the front and not the side door. After dropping off at either location, the driver can use the 4th Avenue entrance.

Both of these drop-off areas are closer to the entrances than the previous building, and in closer proximity to the sanctuary and without stairs or grade changes.

Building Renewal Notes

The work continues on the new sanctuary doors, trim work and door hardware work will continue for the next weeks. The decorative grill work on the south and north entrance doors was installed this week. It is a design that picks up the look of the parking ramp and the gothic arches of the sanctuary windows. The decorative grill work was fabricated by a local craft firm in St. Paul.

PARKING: All three entrances are now open and ready for weekend worship. The automation for the parking entrances will arrive and be installed sometime around the New Year. You can enter off of 3rd Avenue at the south end of the lot, or use 12th Avenue in front of the church to access the new 4th Avenue entrance, or enter through the 15th Street gate. Thanks for your flexibility as this work is completed.

Sand on the Sidewalks and Pillar Painting

You will notice sand on the sidewalks throughout the winter months. We cannot use salt for the first year on the newly poured concrete (if we do it will void the warranty!). Sand is a good substitute for safety on iced walk ways, even if it is a bit messy and does not always look that great. Also, the pillars that surround the new addition do need to be re-painted and touched up. The contractor was not able to accomplish this before the weather turned cold. This will be completed in the spring.

Sign up at the Welcome Desk

Here are the current things you can sign up for at the welcome desk.



- Holy Communion Class
- OWLS Holiday Luncheon
- Pick up 100th Anniversary logo Items purchased online
- Purchase Poinsettias

Safety and Entrances

The building has an intentional design for entrances. The new south entrance is the primary entrance from the parking lot. The other primary entrance is the new north door by the bell tower, and there is a new ramp with an automatic door. The main "cathedral" doors will not be open for entering for worship, but you can still exit out of these doors. Having us all enter either by the new south or north doors provides safety, limited mobility accessibility and supports Dwayne and the security staff in their work to provide a safe and secure place for all.

Counting Volunteer Needed

We have two teams that meet on Monday mornings to sort, count, and deposit the contributions that were received over the weekend. The teams alternate from week to week. We could use one more volunteer to join one of the teams. Strict confidentiality required. Contact Obie Holmen if you are interested at 612-767-9220 or rholmen@centralmpls.org.

news and happenings

100th Anniversary Logo Items

For those who ordered 100th Anniversary logo items, you can pick up your purchases at the welcome desk this weekend.

Christmas Poinsettia Sales

This season, to honor or remember loved ones, please contribute to our poinsettia garden! To purchase a poinsettia (cost is \$10 per plant), visit the welcome desk. Poinsettias will be used to decorate our sanctuary and some will be delivered early to our homebound members and Friends of Central beginning the weekend of December 8/9.

Life Passages for November

Baptisms - *Marked with the cross of Christ forever*

- Haidyn Marie Lindner was baptized Saturday, November 10.
- Audrey Elle Checovich was baptized Sunday, November 25.

Wedding - *What God has joined together, let no one separate*

Waseem Touma and Anja Swenson were married at Central on Saturday, November 10.

Funerals - *Whether we live or die we are the Lord's*

- Gail Lenore Syverson was born April 6, 1937 and died October 8, 2018. The funeral was held at Central on November 3.
- Ann Carol Holland was born on March 20, 1946 and died October 21, 2018. The funeral was held at Central on November 10.

Prayer Shawl Knitters Group

Tuesday, December 11, 1:00 p.m., fireside room

Come and bring a knitting friend to share in this meaningful outreach ministry. Join us the second Tuesday of every month for a time of fellowship and refreshments and help make lovely warm shawls to be given free of charge to anyone needing comfort or healing. Bring your own yarn or limited supplies are also available. If you have questions, contact Eve Overby at epoverby@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Confirmation & High School
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Choristers' Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Tree of Life Worship and Dinner

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:30 a.m. Free Store Opens
9:30 a.m. Augsburg Central Health Commons
10:30 a.m. Mental Health Open Hours
11:00 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Community Meal
12:00 p.m. Bible Study
12:00 p.m. StreetSong Rehearsal

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
12:30 p.m. Floral Guild
2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Preacher
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
7:15 p.m. Central Choir

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:30 a.m. Street Voices of Change
9:00 a.m. Quilting for LWR
9:30 a.m. Augsburg Central Health Commons
9:30 a.m. Free Store Opens

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

Building closed.
9:00 a.m. Quilting for LWR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

5:00 p.m. Worship
5:45 p.m. Saturday Evening Fellowship



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"SPIRIT" SUBMISSIONS
Submit items for consideration
by Monday at 4 p.m. each
week for the upcoming issue
to smasters@centrallmpls.org

PRAYER REQUESTS
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