



the Spirit

JANUARY 19/20, 2019



life together

Enlarging the Circle

I am committed to open and transparent communication as one of the foundations for our life together as a congregation.

Opportunities to learn about aspects of our life together, ask questions and hear about the ups and downs are part of what it means to work to "enlarge the circle." I have shared in the past that "enlarging the circle" is making sure that you have the opportunity to learn about who we are and what we are working on together. So, two key meetings are scheduled for you to learn, ask questions and appreciate the work we are called to as Central Lutheran.

The first invitation is to the Building Renewal Project closure meeting on Sunday, January 27, at 11:45 a.m. The Building Renewal Project is coming to an official close and so it is time for an open meeting to review the project, the challenges along the way, the budget and loans. Plan to attend as we give thanks and update you on all the specifics related to the project.

The second invitation is to the annual budget meeting, this year on Sunday, February 3, at 11:45 a.m. We have shifted to a calendar year process and so the Annual Meeting will be held in February. As we prepare for the meeting, please join Obie Holmen, John Olson and me as we present the proposed 2019 budget for your review. This is your opportunity to ask questions and learn about Central's proposed 2019 budget.

Finally, please note that the Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, February 10, at 11:45 a.m. We gather for lunch and the Annual Meeting to celebrate the mission of the congregation, approve the 2019 budget, elect new leadership and affirm the recommendation from the current discernment process for an updated welcome statement, which acknowledges Central as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

By God's grace we have accomplished much in these past four years. The new facility, strengthened administrative processes, program development and the emerging strategic plan all open us to God's next invitations for us as Central Lutheran. Thank you for your faithfulness, compassion and openness to what God is up to in and through our life together.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Peter

100th Anniversary Year Highlights

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

February 2019

- 10: Annual Meeting
- 17: Central Reminiscences: A Centennial Celebration

March 2019

- 3: Family Fun Event - 2DefyGravity

April 2019

- 6/7/8: Guest Preacher: Rev. David Wangaard and potluck on Sunday
- 13/14: Palm Sunday
- 20/21: Easter Sunday
- 27/28: Confirmation

May 2019

- 4/5/6: Anniversary Weekend; Celebratory Worship and Anniversary Banquets on Saturday and Sunday; National Lutheran Choir Concert Sunday afternoon
- 12: Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra Anniversary Concert
- 30: Ascension Day: "Beating the Bounds" virtual event

Building Renewal Project Closure Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 11:45 a.m., great room
We have been enjoying the new facility for months, but the work behind the scenes has continued. The Building Renewal Project is coming to an official close and so it is time for an open meeting to review the project, the challenges along the way, the budget and loans. Plan to attend as we give thanks and update you on all the specifics related to the project.

worship and formation

Guide to Prayer

Listening for God

Epiphany is the season of light. The star's light led the wise seekers to the Christ child. Baptismal candles shine the light of Christ into the lives of the baptized. Jesus transforms water to wine and restores joy at the wedding in Cana. The followers of Jesus set their eyes on all that brings light, love, hope and peace.

This weekend Jesus changes the water into wine, and joy is restored.

John 2: Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Listening to your life

Pause for a moment each day, light a candle to welcome the presence of Christ. When have you felt a loss that has taken away your joy? When has life crashed in and left you wondering about how all will work out? At the wedding feast in the gospel reading the wine runs out and the celebration is in danger. Jesus steps in, joy is restored and the new wine is better than they could possibly imagine. Take time to listen for God's promise of joy. Where do you need God's renewing and restoring presence in your life? Offer all of this to God in daily prayer.

Year-Round Stewardship Emphasis Continues: "How Much is Enough?"

The next conversation on abundant generosity, grounded in the "How Much is Enough?" resource will be on Sunday, January 20, at 9:30 a.m. in the lower narthex. Deacon Terri Endres from the ELCA Portico Benefit Services will be here to lead the discussion on how stewardship leaders hold a holistic perspective (chapter 3 in the resource). Plan to attend this next forum opportunity, sponsored by the Faith and Finance Ministry Team, as we continue to ground ourselves in God's invitation to abundantly generous lives.

Spiritual Life Groups

You are invited to prayerfully consider committing to participation in a Spiritual Life Group for 2019. These small groups will begin meeting in February, will covenant to connect at least 10 times during the year and will explore faith and life through resources prepared by the pastors and supported by the Central website. Support will be given to get your group rolling.

The Spiritual Life Groups will be a great way to connect with fellow members of Central, enter an intentional year of growing deeper in faith and for our entire congregation to celebrate a deeper spiritual life together. The groups can meet in homes, out at a coffee shop or in other creative ways. You can meet and share a meal or gather to connect monthly after worship, the group will decide how and when.

There are two weeks remaining to sign up for a Spiritual Life Group. You can form your own group of 6-8 or sign up to be put into a group by time of day or geography. Sign up continues this weekend. If you have questions, you can check in with Pastor Peter after worship.

Winter Bible Study with Pastor Peter

Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., fireside room

It is never too late to jump in and join the conversation. Pastor Peter leads the study, this winter we will study the Gospel of Luke, this year's gospel reading for weekly worship. The study will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. concluding on February 13. The materials are available at the welcome desk or online. What a perfect new year's resolution, to join the study to grow in faith and gain perspective for life.

Central Reminisces: A Centennial Celebration

Sunday, February 17, 2:00 p.m., sanctuary

An hour long program of audio and video recordings, photographic montages, choral music and hymns. Come, hear snippets of some of Central's former preachers, the 1957 Lutheran World Federation meeting at Central, the Central Choir under Fred Hilary, John Ferguson and Chuck Parsons, radio broadcast recordings of the "old" organ played by Marion Hutchinson and many more treasures from Central's archival vault. The current Central Choir will sing some old favorites and we'll all sing some hymns that have been a part of our hundred-year history.

community

Congregation Council Update

The Congregation Council met on December 18. The meeting was called to order by President Sara Stensaas and began with Christ care prayers led by Pastor Peter. After adopting the December agenda and the minutes from the November 27 meeting, the Council received the financial reports ending November 30, 2018. Also received were updates on the following informational items:

- Building Renewal Project update
- Reconciling in Christ
- Strategic Planning update
- Nominating Committee update
- 100th Anniversary Year update
- Initial Budget for 2019
- Program area updates/rostered leaders report: worship, formation, community and generosity.

The Council also heard from Charles Smith and his faith story and continued a deeper conversation about the Envision Community.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m, after closing with Responsive Prayer for Evening.

Open Budget meeting

Sunday, February 3, 11:45 a.m., great room

Join Obie Holmen, John Olson and Pastor Peter as they present the proposed 2019 budget for the congregation's review. This is an opportunity to ask questions and learn about Central's proposed 2019 budget.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 10, 11:45 a.m., great room

Save Sunday, February 10, for the Annual Meeting. We meet to celebrate mission, hear about how God is at work in and through the people of Central Lutheran Church, adopt the 2019 budget and elect congregational leadership. A light lunch will be served immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Sign up at the Welcome Desk

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



- OWLS February trip to Chanhassen Dinner Theater
- Spiritual Life Groups
- Sunday/Weekday Receptionist Volunteer
- Household Family Usher Team

eSpirit

Stay up-to-date on the weekend happenings ahead of the weekend, with the weekly eSpirit newsletter. If you don't receive this electronic newsletter, please sign up at www.centralmpls.org or email Sara Masters at smasters@centralmpls.org.

Pastoral Care

When in need of pastoral care, please call the church office at 612-870-4416. In case of emergency on weekends and evenings, please call the church office and our after-hours answering service will connect you to the on-call pastor.

Parking

All three entrances are now open and ready for weekend worship. The automation for the parking entrances will be installed by the end of the month. 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.

Please do not park on the city side of the parking ramp.

news and happenings

Saturday Night Worship

On Saturday, January 19, in observance of the Dr. King holiday, we will serve some of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s favorite foods. Join us for worship at 5:00 p.m. and stay for fellowship and a taste of fried chicken and pecan pie.

Restoration Center and Church Building Closed January 21

In observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the Restoration Center and church offices will be closed on Monday, January 21. There will NOT be a community meal.

OWLS February Trip

Wednesday, February 13

The OWLS will be taking in a show "Holiday Inn" at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater in February. The bus will depart Central at 10:15; cost is \$30, lunch included. Come to the welcome desk and reserve your spot on January, 19/20 or 26/27. Payment at time of sign up is preferred. For more information, contact Vicki Bierlein at wandav885@gmail.com.

A Different Kind of Book Club

Thursday, February 14, 1:30 p.m., nativity

In February, we will be reading "The Imperial Cruise" by James Bradley. In the summer of 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt dispatched the largest diplomatic mission in American history across the Pacific. The secret agreements laid the groundwork for America's Pacific engagement which would lead to WWII in the Pacific. Discussion will be led by Ann Rafshol. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. High School
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Choristers
11:45 a.m. Community Meal
11:45 a.m. Heading Home Central
1:30 p.m. Listening for God

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

Building closed for MLK Holiday

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m. Congregation Council

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

8:30 a.m. Street Voices of Change
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
10:00 a.m. Augsburg Central Health Commons
10:30 a.m. ERA Volunteers
11:30 a.m. Shalom Circle

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Building closed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

11:00 a.m. Donald Svitak Funeral
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
prayers@centrallmpls.org

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