



the Spirit

FEBRUARY 9/10, 2019



life together

Unworthy and Worthy

When Simon Peter saw it (that Jesus had filled their nets with fish), he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with

him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. (Luke 5:8-11)

There is a familiar pattern in this reading, one that runs throughout the Bible. People experience the presence of God. Their reaction is unworthiness, often with a confession of their sin. God responds with forgiveness. Then God offers the invitation for the person to follow. Sometimes God skips the forgiveness part and goes right to the invitation. We hear that breach of protocol in this weekend's gospel. Simon says, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man," and Jesus replies, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."

Maybe we can even hear Jesus say, "Sure Simon, okay now here is what we are going to do." Maybe a task, like following Jesus to catch people is forgiveness? Maybe Jesus knows that when folks experience the presence of God, we go to that unworthy place before we can imagine how worthy we are in God's sight.

Maybe we need a little of both as we follow God throughout our life. Do we need moments of absolute awe that open us to our unworthiness? Can awe inspired unworthiness open us to life as a gift? Perhaps unworthiness can help us tend to our ego or sense that we certainly deserve all of this, that we are entitled.

We also need moments when we experience God's unconditional love, that we are worthy. You are made in the image of God, loved by Jesus and called by the Holy Spirit. Who you are and who you are called to be is unique and blessed by God. We need to be grounded in our worthiness as children of God.

The good news is that God knows where each of us is at in the seemingly endless inner journey between unworthiness and worthiness. God meets you, to forgive or to invite. Both are essential for our unworthy and worthy lives.

Thank you for your faithfulness, openness and joy,
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 - 2 Defy Gravity

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

Annual Meeting

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

Exploring the promise of God for all

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. Jesus begins ministry, embodying the good news of God's love.

Jesus calls disciples to follow

But when Simon Peter saw it (that Jesus had caused their nets to fill with fish), he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. (Luke 5:8-10)

Listening to your life

Pause for a moment each day, light a candle to welcome the presence of Christ. Simon Peter's response to the experience of Jesus was unworthiness, and a confession of his sinfulness. What is remarkable is Jesus assumes Simon Peter's inherent worthiness. Jesus invites him not to be afraid, and that he is called into community and a task. When are you caught in that ache of unworthiness? Can you hear Jesus' invitation to not fear, that you are worthy of love, joy and peace? What does this moment reveal to you about God? Offer all of this to God in daily prayer.

Sunday Morning Adult Formation

The Creeds, the Church's Faith Story, a five-week conversation

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., lower narthex

The study continues this weekend, led by Pastor Peter. We gather to study the Creeds of the church, from the perspective of the faith story of the church. We will look at early biblical creeds, the development of the early church Creeds and some of the interesting Creeds developed in different contexts. These conversations are to help us prepare for Lent as we explore affirmations of faith. In Lent, members of the congregation will share their faith stories as we continue to grow in faith together. You are invited to jump in when it works for you. Coffee, tea and cookies are served.

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.

Life Passages for January

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

Loretta M. Grove was born on October 22, 1934 and died on January 2, 2019.

Mary Lou Thureson was born on January 1, 1927 and died on January 2, 2019.

Sylvia Lokken was born on December 8, 1933 and died on January 3, 2019.

Don E. Svitak was born on October 18, 1928 and died on January 7, 2019. His funeral was held at Central on January 26.

Arlie Wilfred Johnson was born on March 26, 1925 and died on January 12, 2019. His funeral was held at Central on January 19.

Saturday Night Fellowship

Following worship on Saturday, February 16, join us for all things chocolate as we celebrate (after) Valentine's Day.

Join Chef Boyd, Chef Carney, and Chef Jeffrey as we end Black History Month with an amazing Soul Food menu on Saturday, February 23, following our 5:00 p.m. worship service. We don't normally ask for RSVPs but let's do it this once to be sure we prepare enough! Don't come alone; bring a friend. Stop at the welcome desk or email receptionist@centralmpls.org.

community

Empowering Conversations

Sunday, February 17, 12:00 p.m., fireside room

Our Empowering Conversations Team (formally the Peace with Justice Team) has invited Brenda Blackhawk, the Minneapolis Area Synod's new congregational organizer for racial justice to speak at Central on Sunday, February 17. Brenda comes to the Minneapolis Area Synod with great experience around racial justice and equity, having completed the ELCA Churchwide training on dismantling oppressive structures from within the church. Please plan to stay for lunch and join us for a good conversation on what's happening in the ELCA and how we can partner with the synod around issues related to racial justice and equity.

Cherish All Children Presentation

Thursday, February 21, 11:30 a.m., great room

Joy McElroy, director of Cherish All Children, will give a presentation about her organization's work on February 21. Cherish All Children is a ministry within Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota that equips congregations to prevent child sexual exploitation through a variety of workshops, retreats, and educational programs.

This event will be hosted jointly by Circle of Friends and Circle of Hope, but all interested women and men are invited to attend. A soup and salad lunch will be available beginning at 11:30 for \$5.00. Joy will begin speaking following lunch. To take advantage of the lunch, please sign up at the welcome desk, or RSVP to aoyen@comcast.net.

Family Fun Event: 2 Defy Gravity

Sunday, March 3, 3:00 p.m., sanctuary

As part of our 100th Anniversary celebration, 2 Defy Gravity will come and perform in our sanctuary. 2 Defy Gravity is a beautiful and death-defying, circus-based performance duo founded in Saint Paul and has been wowing audiences since 2009. They combine the circus arts of silks, lyra, acro-balancing, trapeze, chains and fire with dance and aerial dance. Bring your friends and family to watch this high-flying duo in Central's sanctuary. Tickets are \$10 for adults purchased in advance and \$12 purchased at the door. Youth 18 and under are free. Get your tickets at the welcome desk before or after worship.

Young Adults in Global Mission

As we move toward Lenten observances, Easter celebrations and our 100th Anniversary weekend, our Young Adults in Global Mission, Eli Yackel-Juleen and Amelia Schurke, move into the second half of their year of global service with Eli in Palestine and Amelia in Mexico. Take a few minutes to read their newsletters and blogs on Central's website: www.centralmpls.org/generosity/yagm. Note their insights, discoveries, and transformative moments, gifts to us and the people among whom they serve.

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.

Sign up at the Welcome Desk

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



- Sunday/Weekday Receptionist Volunteer
- Household Family Usher Team
- Cherish All Children Presentation
- Parking "Meeters" with Dwayne
- 2 Defy Gravity Tickets
- OWLS Trip to National Eagle Center
- Saturday, February 23 Fellowship
- Enneagram Retreat

Winter Weather Closings

It's that time of year when the schools close because of snow or cold and we want to remind you of our winter weather closing policy. We follow the Minneapolis Public Schools and when they do not have school because of the weather, Central will close our building and offices too. When we close, we will post it on our website and voicemail and an email will go out.

Enneagram Retreat

Saturday, March 16, 8:30 a.m., great room
Deepen your self-understanding and use of the Enneagram's nine personality types to enhance your spiritual life and relationships. The retreat, which includes presentations, individual reflections and group discussions, will be led by Debbi Horton, spiritual director and certified Enneagram teacher. Cost is \$35 and includes lunch and materials. Don't miss this opportunity sponsored by the Prayer Ministry Team! Sign up at the welcome desk.

news and happenings

ACTS Circle

Tuesday, February 12, 6:00 p.m., nativity

All Central women are invited to join us for food, fellowship and our shared faith journey. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Karen Snyder at 952-831-6342 or karen@snyders.info.

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.

OWLS March Trip: The National Eagle Center

Wednesday, March 6

Learn about the behavior and habitat of eagles and raptors, their life cycle and their story of recovery. You will be surrounded with the sights and sounds of the Upper Mississippi River as you discover the refuge! Cost: \$20; sign up at the welcome desk: February 9/10, 16/17, 23/24. Payment at time of sign up is preferred. For more information, contact Vicki Bierlein at wandav885@gmail.com.

Life Insurance Gifts to Central Lutheran Church Foundation

Do you have a life insurance policy that you no longer need or care to fund? Many do and are unsure of how to manage or dispose of it.

Planning objectives change over time and many insureds find their life insurance policy an unnecessary financial burden when that policy no longer serves its originally intended purpose. Often, insureds find their policy more valuable to them as a deductible gift, than as a personal estate planning tool. Of those who are prepared to cancel their policies, many would consider gifting the policy to the nonprofit most meaningful to them. Why not be one of them?

Contact Inez Bergquist at Central Lutheran Church Foundation for more information at foundation@centralmpls.org or 651-260-6312.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Choristers Rehearsal
11:45 a.m. Annual Meeting
11:45 a.m. Community Meal

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

9:00 a.m. Emergency Rental Assistance
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
10:00 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, FEBRUARY 12

10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
3:00 p.m. Peace with Justice Team
5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee
6:00 p.m. ACTS Circle
6:30 p.m. Global Mission Ministry Team

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:00 a.m. Emergency Rental Assistance
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
10:15 a.m. OWLS Leave for Chanhassen Theater
1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Preacher
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
6:00 p.m. Winter Bible Study with Pastor Peter
7:15 p.m. Central Choir

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Minnesota Music Educators Association Concerts
8:30 a.m. Street Voices of Change
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
10:00 a.m. Augsburg Central Health Commons
11:30 p.m. Fiscal and Property Committee
1:30 p.m. A Different Kind of Book Club

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Minnesota Music Educators Association Concerts

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

1:00 p.m. F. Orval Westby 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
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