



# the Spirit

MARCH 9/10, 2019



## life together

### The Creeds as Faith Story

The Creeds are the church's collective faith story, snapshots of a moment in time. The Creeds connect us to the past and serve as a symbol of faith that connects us to brothers and sisters across traditions. The challenge with the Creeds is that we may think they are about intellectual agreement or even assent to every line that is confessed. More helpful is holding the Creeds loosely, as a statement made by folks who had experienced God's love and tried to put that shared experience down in words. Words that often fail to communicate fully how God works, welcomes and embraces us.

Helpful scholars, like Jaroslav Pelikan and Luke Timothy Johnson, have helped me enter the Creeds as part of the long faith story of seekers trying to express how God has blessed, healed and loved. For me, what renewed the Creeds is that they are grounded in the word "credo." We usually translate that as "belief." More ancient, and perhaps more illuminating is to translate "credo" as "I give my heart." A life of faith is not about getting it right in our head, assent to doctrinal agreement or that we even agree at all, rather it is about how we are called to share our faith stories and grow in an awareness of how God is at work in all our lives.

I give my heart to God who loves and sustains me. I give my heart to my family and friends. I give my heart to each of you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Giving our hearts opens us to God who is at work in all our lives, always.

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:

#### 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

### Guest Preacher and Teacher Here Sunday, March 17

**Rev. Ken Wheeler – Faith story of a black man in America, a black pastor in a predominately white church**

Next Sunday we welcome the Rev. Ken Wheeler to Central's pulpit and to the Engaging Conversation Forum at 11:45 a.m., sponsored by the Peace with Justice Team. As



a part of our Lenten theme on faith stories, and in response to our newly adopted welcome statement, we welcome Rev. Ken to be with us to share his story to inspire, challenge, educate and lead us into living more deeply into our welcome statement: "You are welcome. No Exceptions."

# worship and formation

## Guide to Prayer

### Listening for God

The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 6. Jesus invites us to listen for God's love in our lives and to align our inner and outer lives by that love. One of the challenges to an aligned life is the temptations that come to us. Jesus resists the temptations in the gospel reading. He depends on God during the challenges. The entire lesson is recorded in Luke 4:1-13. A key verse guides our daily prayer:

The devil said to Jesus "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

### Listening to your life

Pause for a moment each day, light a candle to welcome the presence of Christ. Temptations do come to us, sometimes when we are vulnerable or hungry. At other times, the temptations come because we are self-assured, confident that we are in total control. When have temptations arrived in your life? How was God present and the bread of life for you at that moment of challenge? What does it mean that we are not defined by our struggles or our powers, but by God's love? Offer all of this to God in daily prayer.

## Sunday Morning Adult Formation

### Faith Stories – Our Lenten Journey

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

This weekend we continue to celebrate faith stories, gathering to hear a fellow member share their story as a way to honor one another and see how we are connected in faith. We will also have time for you to connect, reflect and ask questions of each of our fellow members. Hearing one another's faith stories opens us to God and to one another in remarkable ways.

Here is the schedule for the Sunday adult faith formation hour faith stories:

- Sunday, March 10 – Tom Allen
- Sunday, March 17 – Paul Pribbenow
- Sunday, March 24 – Danielle Dunaski
- Sunday, March 31 – Bobbie Spradley
- Sunday, April 7 – Amanda Hutchinson

## Wednesdays in Lent

The Creeds theme and faith stories also guide our Wednesday mid-day prayer and helps shape the evening prayer experience.

**12:15 p.m.** - Service of Word and Prayer

**12:45 p.m.** - Light lunch follows service (soup, bread and salad)

**1:00 p.m.** - Dwelling in the Word Bible Study

**4:00 - 8:00 p.m.** - Prayer stations; prayer around the cross; labyrinth (in the sanctuary)

**6:00 p.m.** - Adult Faith Formation: The Creeds: The Church's Faith Story; Bell Choir rehearsal

**7:00 - 7:30 p.m.** - ELW Evening Prayer

**7:30 p.m.** - Central Choir rehearsal

## The Creeds: The Church's Faith Story

Starts Wednesday March 13, 6:00 p.m., fireside room

You are invited to join Pastor Peter and Pastor C for a study of 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 deepen our Lenten journey as we explore affirmations of faith. This same class series was offered on Sunday mornings in February during the adult faith formation hour. It is offered again for all, so join the conversation for the first or second time!

# community

## Housing Crisis Forum

Sunday, March 10, 12:00 p.m., lower narthex

Ever wonder what people mean when they say “housing crisis”? Interested in learning how this crisis contributes to homelessness? The housing crisis is complex. It involves minimum wage, rent control, inflation, demand, unemployment, tenant rights, homelessness, evictions, Section 8, preservation buyers, gentrification, naturally occurring affordable housing, stereotypes, convictions, credit scores, zoning, upscaling, emergency shelter access, capitalism and more!

Want to learn more about these terms? Want to learn how they interact to create the housing crisis? Come experience a fun, hands-on learning activity hosted by House of Charity at Central. Sign up at the welcome desk to reserve your place at this event. A light lunch will be provided in the lower narthex prior to the presentation.

## Homeless Day on the Hill

Wednesday, March 13

Heading Home Central and DCEH will be sponsoring a bus from Central to the State Capitol for this important advocacy event to secure funding for affordable housing and tenant rights. Sign up sheets are at the welcome desk. The bus will board at 7:30 a.m. at Central for this important time to meet with your legislators. Please join us.

## 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. For questions, contact Ann Oyen at aoyen@comcast.net.

## 2nd Sunday for Youth – March and April

On March 10, our youth are invited to participate in a fun and interactive learning event about the complexities of the housing crisis currently impacting our city. For any students who have interest and passion around social justice, this is a great opportunity to learn the challenges around affordable housing in Minneapolis. This opportunity is presented by our own Heading Home Central Team in conjunction with the House of Charity. To participate, students should sign up with either Pastor Stephanie or Larye Pohlman. Contact Pastor Stephanie for more information.

On April 13-14, high school students are invited to a spring lock-in. We will gather at Central at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, spend the early part of the day in service, and then transition to laser-tag or bowling in the afternoon. We will eat dinner together and watch a movie on the big screen in the great room. Sign up by emailing Pastor Stephanie at sfriesen@centralmpls.org. Friends are welcome!



## Sign up at the Welcome Desk

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

- Household Family Usher Team
- Enneagram Retreat
- OWLS March Trip to The National Eagle Center
- Homeless Day on the Hill

## 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.

## 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](http://www.centralmpls.org) or email Sara Masters at [smasters@centralmpls.org](mailto:smasters@centralmpls.org).

## Spring Issue of “Centering”

Watch your mailbox for the spring issue of *Centering*. This month we focus on generosity. You will also find the schedule for Wednesdays in Lent and Holy Week worship. You can download an electronic copy on our website.

# news and happenings

## A Different Kind of Book Club

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

This month, we are reading "The Five-Carat Soul" by James McBride. Five short stories spring from the place where identity, humanity, and history converge. Five-Carat Soul is a profoundly compassionate book from one of the most original authors writing today. Discussion led by JoAnne Heintz.

## Congregation Council Update

The 2019 Central Congregation Council met on February 26. The meeting was called to order by President Sara Stensaas and began with Christ Care Prayers led by Pastor Stephanie. After approving the February agenda and the January 22 Congregation Council minutes, President Sara welcomed the newly elected members to the council—secretary, Jen Surla, and members at large, Megan Bowman, Mark Erickson, and Carl Numrich.

The majority of the meeting involved all members and staff sharing their stories and getting acquainted. Using the financial reports ending January 31, Obie Holmen, for Treasurer John Olson, offered a thorough explanation of each report and how they can be read and understood by council members. Also received were updates on the following informational items:

- Review of the Annual Meeting;
- Reconciling in Christ next steps;
- Envision Community conversation for March.

For action items, there were none for this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m., after closing with Responsive Prayer for Evening.

## Circle of Hope

Thursday, March 21, 11:30 a.m., trinity

Circle of Hope is meeting on March 21 and all Central women are warmly invited! This meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will take place in the trinity room at Central. Please bring your own lunch; coffee and water will be provided. The program will be a discussion on the book "Mere Spirituality - The Spiritual Life According to Henri Nouwen." We look forward to seeing you there!

## SUNDAY, MARCH 10

8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Confirmation and High School Youth  
9:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:45 a.m. Community Meal  
11:45 a.m. Choristers' Rehearsal  
11:45 a.m. Strategic Planning Team  
12:00 p.m. Housing Crisis Forum

## MONDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 12

10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens  
10:00 a.m. Hennepin Health Outreach  
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry  
3:00 p.m. Peace with Justice Team  
5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee  
6:00 p.m. ACTS Circle

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

7:30 a.m. Bus leaves for State Capitol  
9:00 a.m. Emergency Rental Assistance  
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens  
12:15 p.m. Lenten Mid-day Prayer  
12:45 p.m. Lenten Luncheon  
1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Preacher  
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir  
6:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation  
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer  
7:30 p.m. Central Choir

## THURSDAY, MARCH 14

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 a.m. Fiscal and Property Committee  
12:30 p.m. Emergency Rental Assistance  
1:30 p.m. A Different Kind of Book Club

## FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Building closed

## SATURDAY, MARCH 16

8:30 a.m. Enneagram Workshop  
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](mailto:smasters@centrallmpls.org)

**PRAYER REQUESTS**  
[prayers@centrallmpls.org](mailto:prayers@centrallmpls.org)

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