



the Spirit

APRIL 13/14, 2019



life together

What do you long for?

This weekend the church celebrates both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. We gather to remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. We join in raising our voices with the cry: Hosanna! Worship then shifts from the expectation of Palm Sunday to the account of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion.

Hosanna is a cry of praise and celebration, with deep roots in the Bible and the culture of Jesus' day. It is a hopeful word exclaimed as they waved palm branches and spread their cloaks along the route into Jerusalem. Hosanna is also a cry of longing. In some ancient translations, it can mean: "help, save or heal." This helpful translation of hosanna reminds me of Anne Lamott's wonderful book, *Help, Thanks, Wow*. In her amazing little volume, she invites us to consider that those three words sum up the depth of our prayers, our life of faith: help, thanks and wow.

I wonder what was in the heart of each of the people crying out "hosanna" as Jesus rode by on that humble donkey? Certainly, some folks were longing for help, crying out for some sort of healing or perspective. Others may have been aware of deep blessing and cried out thank you, a hosanna of gratitude. Perhaps some simply were taking it all in, crying out wow! Each of these prayers, all gathered together in the exclamation of hosanna, flow from our deep human longing for healing, hope and wonder.

As you cry out hosanna this weekend, what do you long for? What is your prayer? Is it a hosanna that holds the need for help, the depth of gratitude or the astounding gift of wonder? God hears them all, each human hosanna called out to the healer, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Peter

100th Anniversary Weekend Banquets

Central's 100th Anniversary celebration will reach its peak over the weekend of May 4, 5 and 6. There will be a festive worship along with catered anniversary banquets. On Saturday evening, May 4, the elegant event features a reception with passed appetizers, a champagne toast to Central and a delicious meal served family style. Central member and Augsburg University president Dr. Paul Pribbenow will give a keynote message. A jazz quartet will provide musical entertainment, and a dance floor will be available. On Sunday, May 5 at 11:45 a.m., former Central member and published author Greg Bancroft will speak at the family-friendly banquet. A violin/harp duo will provide music. On Monday, May 6, worship is at 11:00 a.m., featuring festive worship with a unique walk down memory lane, and the catered meal at 11:30 a.m.

Thanks to Central Lutheran Church Foundation for underwriting the Saturday and Sunday banquets; tickets are just \$15 for adults. Kids 12 and under eat free. Tickets are available online and at the welcome desk on Saturday and Sunday. There is no charge for the Monday banquet.

Holy Week and Easter Worship

The Great Three Days

- Maundy Thursday Holy Communion - April 18, 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday Worship: Adoration of the Crucified - April 19, 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Great Vigil of Easter, Holy Saturday, April 20, 7:00 p.m. (no 5:00 p.m. service)

Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 21

- First Light Devotions in the Columbarium at 7:30 a.m.
- Easter Festival Choral Eucharist (with Choir) at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
- Coffee and donuts at 7:30 and 9:30 a.m.

worship and formation

Guide to Prayer

Listening for God

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday. Soon we will turn our attention to the last supper, the arrest, trial and crucifixion. Today we are still on the journey of Lent. We join the crowd that gathers to watch God's incarnate love ride by on the donkey. We raise our voices to cry hosanna!

"Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."
(Luke 19:35-40)

Listening to your life

Pause for a moment each day, light a candle to welcome the presence of Christ. In this Holy Week, what do you long for? What are your prayers for healing, hope, renewal and reconciliation? Where is God's love needed in your life, for your family, neighborhood and this world? Offer all of this to God in daily prayer.

Sunday Morning Adult Formation

This weekend we turn our attention to the events of Holy Week that lead to our healing and renewal. We have listened to the faith stories of fellow members, and we now turn to the faith story of Jesus' last week. Pastor C will lead the class on the events and significance of Holy Week, the Three Days and Easter Sunday. The adult learning time is at 9:30 a.m. in the lower narthex. Coffee, tea and cookies are served in the lower narthex, as well. Remember, there is no adult learning time on Easter Sunday, April 21.

Looking ahead, Pastor Melissa will share her faith story on Sunday, April 28. She was away on sabbatical when some of the staff were sharing their stories. Then on Sunday, May 5 (the Anniversary Weekend), Pastor Peter will lead the final adult Sunday learning time for the program year as we brainstorm topics and ideas for next year's learning time.

Young Adults Group

The Young Adults are planning to serve a feast of rich desserts and beverages at the Easter Vigil this year. If you are in that 20ish to 40ish age range, we would love to have you join us! Folks are gathering at church on Saturday, April 20 at 4:00 p.m. to set up and prepare desserts. The Vigil is at 7:00 p.m. and desserts will be served around 8:30. We are a friendly and inclusive bunch who look forward to meeting you. If you have questions and want to learn more, contact Pastor Stephanie at sfriesen@centralmpls.org.

Life Passages for March

Baptism - *Marked with the cross of Christ forever*

Kai Thomas Sheie was baptized at Central on Saturday, March 9.

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

Matthew Reid Schmidt was born on August 19, 1983 and died on March 13, 2019. His memorial service was held at Central Tuesday, March 19.

Come Join the Choir - You're Invited

On Sunday, May 19 the Central Choir along with members of the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra will be performing Johann Adolph Hasse's remarkable "Te Deum" as a part of the 10:30 a.m. worship service. This will serve as the choral culmination of our Centennial celebrations. So, even if you're not a member of the choir on a regular basis, we'd love for you to come and join us. Note reading ability is very helpful.) We'll be holding rehearsals on the piece during our regular choir rehearsal time (Wednesday evenings 7:15 to 9:00 p.m. in the great room) on May 1, 8 and 15. Rehearsal with orchestra will take place Saturday morning, May 18 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Interested? Contact Cantor Sedio in the church office: msedio@centralmpls.org.

community

StreetSong Choir Performance

Saturday, April 27, 3:00 p.m., Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St., Minneapolis

Enjoy a free choral concert by the StreetSong MN choir, which is made of members who have experiences with homelessness. The performance coincides with the "Homeless in the Mill" exhibit currently on display, which explores homelessness at Washburn A. Mill before it became Mill City Museum in 2003.

StreetSong MN is a choir that aims to unite voices for harmony and community. Comprised of persons "experienced" in homelessness – i.e. persons currently or formerly homeless, and those who care about them—StreetSong is led by Teri Larson and Bill Mathis, music directors of the Basilica of St. Mary and Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church. This choral collaborative is an enterprise of the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness.

National Lutheran Choir "Spring Concert: Light and Dark"

Sunday, May 5, 4:00 p.m., sanctuary

To help celebrate Central's 100th Anniversary, the National Lutheran Choir will present their spring concert at Central. Tickets: Adult \$30, senior \$28, students and children free. Use discount code 'CLC100' for \$10 off adult admission. Purchase tickets online at www.nlca.com.

Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Breakfast

Saturday, May 11, 9:00 a.m., Edina Country Club

Experience Happiness is the theme for our 19th annual breakfast celebrating all women. Register at the welcome desk April 14, 28 and May 5. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$15 for girls under 12. Menu choices are available at registration. This event is sponsored by Central's Circle of Friends and Normandale Lutheran's Priscilla Circle.

Central Lutheran Church Foundation Seeks Nominations for Trustee Positions

The Central Lutheran Church Foundation Board will be filling up to three trustee positions. The Foundation Board is particularly looking for people with investment management, marketing or financial management experience. If you have individuals to nominate or you would like to learn more about the expectations for serving on the Foundation Board, you can talk to Pastor Peter or email the Foundation Board Chair, Bonnie Wiesenburger, at bjweisenburger@comcast.net.

Decorating for Easter

Spring is here! The flowers aren't blooming outside yet but will be next weekend for Easter season. The lillies and other flowers used to decorate for Easter arrive at church on Saturday, April 20. Extra hands are needed to help get the flowers into sanctuary and help with decorating. Want to help? Come to Central by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 20 for two hours of indoor gardening. No green thumbs needed!



Sign up at the Welcome Desk

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

- Anniversary Banquets
- MDSF Breakfast Tickets
- Ushers for Holy Week
- Advocacy Alerts
- 100th Anniversary Logo Samples (Store closes April 17!)

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.

Bar Code on the Back of the "Spirit"

If the parking gates are down after worship, use the bar code on the back of the *Spirit* to exit the parking lot. Put the bar code up to the reader and it will open the gate. This only works when exiting.

Ushers Needed for Holy Week

You are invited to serve as an usher at one of the Holy Week and Easter services. No experience necessary. Meet an usher at the Ushers Desk in the narthex following worship.

news and happenings

Congregation Council Update

The 2019 Central Congregation Council met on March 26. The meeting was called to order by President Sara Stensaas and began with Christ Care Prayers led by Pastor Peter. After approving the March agenda and the February 26 Congregation Council minutes, President Sara invited the five Council members and staff who were not at the February meeting to share their stories and help in getting acquainted with each other.

After receiving the financial reports ending February 28, 2019, the Council also reviewed the February 13 letter/report received from Akins Heinke & Company, Certified Public Accountants, representing an accounting audit performed through May 31, 2018.

The Council was updated and held conversation on the following informational items:

- Rostered Leaders Report
- 100th Anniversary Spring Schedule
- Reconciling in Christ Next Steps
- Strategic Planning
- Envision Community

For action items, there were none. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m., after closing with Responsive Prayer for Evening.

100th Anniversary Logo Items Back by Popular Demand!

If you missed out on ordering 100th Anniversary logo apparel back in October, you have another chance. Come to the welcome desk before or after worship to check out samples that are for sale online. To order, follow the link on our website. **Store closes on April 17.** Items will be delivered to the church by Anniversary weekend, May 4-6.



Because of you...

The Central quilting group meets each month and contributes their skills to assemble quilts for a variety of ministries including Lutheran World Relief. Fabric and batting are generously donated by members. Thank you to the quilters. Want to join the effort? Contact Carol Henderson at 612-978-6178.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

- 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

MONDAY, APRIL 15

- 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, APRIL 16

- 10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
- 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

- 9:00 a.m. Emergency Rental Assistance
- 10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Preacher
- 5:00 p.m. 100th Anniversary Committee
- 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
- 7:30 p.m. Central Choir

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

- 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
- 12:30 p.m. Emergency Rental Assistance
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

- 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship: Adoration of the Crucified
- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship: Adoration of the Crucified

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

- 1:00 p.m. Prayer Stations
- 7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil
- 8:30 p.m. Festival of Rich Desserts

CENTRAL LUTHERAN
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"SPIRIT" SUBMISSIONS
Submit items for consideration
by Tuesday at 4 p.m. each
week for the upcoming issue
to smasters@centralmpls.org

PRAYER REQUESTS
prayers@centralmpls.org

Use this barcode to exit the parking lot after worship.

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | www.elca.org
and the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness | www.dceh.org