



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

the Spirit

AUGUST 24/25, 2019



life together

Open to the Mystery of God

This year our life together will be guided by a theme. It is one way for us to be invited into the awareness that God is moving us forward as a faith community. We are mission-forward people. All mission is grounded in an awareness of God. A mission-forward community is moving closer to God, to wholeness, and a deep and abiding sense of God's presence.

The theme that will guide the program year is: Open to the Mystery of God. This theme will help shape our prayer and spiritual formation opportunities. The theme will guide worship, open us to God and to one another in community life and inspire our generosity. The fall edition of *Centering* will arrive in your mailbox and email inbox shortly after Labor Day weekend. In this quarterly newsletter, you will be offered many invitations for you to be open to the mystery of God.

What a good theme does is stir up questions. What does it mean to be open to the mystery of God? How does a sense of openness draw us to God in prayer? How does an openness to mystery invite us to consider how we understand ourselves and our relationship with God? How does an openness to mystery invite us to ask significant questions for faithful lives that are engaged in care for the vulnerable?

In a world that is currently experiencing crisis after crisis, in a time when we are so tempted to be closed to God and to one another, what a blessing to be invited to be open to the mystery of God.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Peter

Church Picnic

The annual church picnic is set for Sunday, August 25, at 11:30 p.m. This year the church picnic will be out on the plaza, the patio and in the great room. Dave and Dwayne will grill hot dogs. There will be games and a bouncy house for the kids and an interactive bingo game for all ages. Plan to be here next Sunday as we hold onto the last days of summer and give thanks for our life together.

Wednesday Night Adult Faith Formation

Wednesday, September 4, 6:30 p.m., nativity Obie will lead the final evening session discussing his book, *Wormwood and Gall* (the title comes from an Old Testament lament for Jerusalem). Set against the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 C.E., the novel imagines a distraught and frightened Christian community in need of inspirational words of hope. A fictional Mark is at the center of the action as he wonders at the meaning of life in the face of horrific destruction. In the end, he compiles a narrative to be read to the assembly, which becomes the first gospel narrative that would later be included in the New Testament. Books can be purchased at the welcome desk.

Prayer Walks: September 7-9

On the weekend of September 7, 8 and 9, we will celebrate with many other churches in the ELCA God's Work, Our Hands Weekend. In many congregations, this is a call to action and service. At Central we experience that call every time we gather together as a community. For us this weekend will be one of venturing out into our neighborhood prayerfully.

We invite you on a prayer walk. It is a led journey of having our eyes, ears, and hearts open and having our voices quiet for a bit. After the Saturday night worship service, after the 10:30 Sunday morning worship service, and after the 11:00 Monday worship service, there will be our usual times of food and fellowship. Then we will meet up with a guide who will lead you on a prayer walk. When we return, we will share what we experienced and there will be a limited number of God's Work, Our Hands t-shirts available. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Pastor Melissa.

worship and formation

Guide to Prayer

Listening for God

Jesus's restlessness continues in the Gospel lesson for this weekend. Jesus cures a woman, but it is the sabbath. He is called out for healing on a day of rest. Jesus responds to his restlessness this week in the Gospel lesson. His restlessness is directed at religious leaders who would preserve the Sabbath over care for someone in need.

"But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.' But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?' When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing." (Luke 13:14-17)

Listening to your life

Jesus is restless at the barriers we set up that limit the health and wholeness of others. This week's restlessness is still connected to Jesus' question about the spiritual crisis we see in the world but fail to address. What are the barriers that you face, those that limit or hinder your health and wholeness? What are the road blocks that limit the health and wholeness in our communities and world? Pause for a moment each day, light a candle to welcome the presence of God. Begin by breathing in and breathing out, a reminder of God's grace that constantly flows into your life. What do you hear in your time for prayer? Offer all of this to God.

Attention Singers!

Choir Starts Wednesday, September 4, 7:15 p.m., great room
The beginning of the formal choir year is just around the corner. Thinking about joining our incredible ensemble? This is a perfect time! Our first rehearsal will take place on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:15 p.m. in the great room. This will be preceded by a potluck supper that will begin at 6:15 p.m. Returning choir members, please bring a dish to share—appetizer, salad, main dish or dessert. NEW MEMBERS simply come as our guests.

The Central Choir is our congregation's longest ongoing group—offering a different dimension regarding worship participation; an outlet for using one's talent, with fellowship and just plain fun! The choir rehearses each Wednesday from 7:15 to 9:00 p.m. in the great room. The choir sings September through May at our 10:30 a.m. worship services. In addition to weekly anthems, liturgical music (psalm settings, hymn stanzas, etc.), the choir focuses on larger works with orchestra presented in the context of worship or as afternoon concerts. No audition is necessary but good music reading skills are a must. To join, simply come to one of our regular weekly rehearsals. Contact Mark Sedio at msedio@centralmpls.org for more information.

Youth Fall Programming

Sunday school and confirmation classes will begin in one big opening experience in the largest Sunday school room called Transfiguration on September 8 at 9:30 a.m. Parents and children are expected to attend together to learn about the program year. Sunday school and confirmation classes will actually begin on September 15 at 9:30 a.m. The high school youth group will begin on September 15 at 9:30 a.m. also.

Adult Faith Formation

For this program year, from September—May, the invitation to be open to the mystery of God will help shape worship, faith formation, community life and generosity. For adult faith formation, it is an exceptional invitation to help us grow in an awareness of God, one another and our relationships with all our neighbors.

There are many opportunities for adult faith formation. Below are some of the invitations as they are shaped by the invitation for us to be open to the mystery of God.

September

8 – Sunday: God's Work, Our Hands Weekend

9:30 a.m. – Introduction to the Year with Pastor Peter

11:45 a.m. – Neighborhood Prayer Walk, Open to the Mystery of God

15 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. - Dr Guillermo Hansen – Open to the Mystery of God

12:00 p.m. Empowering Conversations (Peace with Justice) Forum:
Dr Guillermo Hansen – Open to the Mystery of God, who is God and what does God call us to care about?

22 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. - Eli Yackel-Juleen, Young Adult in Global Mission presentation, serving in Jerusalem

community

Foundation Corner

Sidney and Lola Berg: Faithful Stewards of Central Lutheran Church

Lola and Sidney Berg met at Central Lutheran and were married here in 1966. Sid was working as a librarian at a school in Stewartville, Minn., at that time. Lola received a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma, and a master's degree from Winona State. Later, she was on staff at Central Lutheran as secretary to Pastor Morris Wee and Pastor Gornitzka, and also served as the volunteer services director.



Sid earned a master's degree in Library Science and a master's degree in Audio Visual at the University of Oklahoma. Later, Sid became an inside sales person after he left his position as head librarian of the Stewartville schools. Lola was a social worker, serving at good Samaritan Care Centers until age 84 in many locations in the southwest United States, and the Midwest.

They both were active in Augsburg University alumni programs and campus activities. Sid's love of music was reflected in his singing at Augsburg, where he graduated in 1957, in the Augsburg University Choir, and for many years sang in Central Lutheran's choir and the Augsburg Centennial Singers.

Sid and Lola played an active role in making the emergent Milwaukee Avenue Historic District a place where homeowners became close neighbors. Sid and Lola then moved to Nicollet Island and took on another historic house restoration. They later moved to the nearby Pillsbury A Mill Artist's Lofts.

Lola has many friends from both her previous neighborhoods where they restored older houses, on Milwaukee Avenue in Minneapolis and on Nicollet Island, and from Central Lutheran, where she is active with OWLS and the contemplative prayer group. She is formerly a member of the usher team, home visitation for shut ins, and taught Sunday school as well.

Sid died May 29, 2018. Lola and Sid have had Central Lutheran Church Foundation in their will for the last 10 years and recently became Legacy Partners when they received a letter of invitation from the Foundation.

The Central Lutheran Church Foundation is grateful to Sid and Lola for their many years of friendship and service, and faithful dedication to Central Lutheran Church's future.



Sign up at the Welcome Desk

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

- Purchase Obie Holmen's Books
- Name Badges
- Sign up for OWLS September Trip

eSpirit

Stay up-to-date on the weekend happenings ahead of the weekend with the weekly eSpirit newsletter. You will also receive the edevos and any weather or meeting cancellation notices. This is also the way we will communicate about funerals coming up and any parking/road closure informaton. If you don't receive this electronic newsletter, please sign up at www.centralmpls.org or email Sara Masters at smasters@centralmpls.org.

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.

news and happenings

The Central Lutheran Church Foundation presents End of Life Series this Fall

The series will begin on October 27, 11:45 a.m., with attorney Matthew Guttman on Estate Planning. On November 3 at 11:45 a.m., Dr. Vic Sandler will speak on "End of Life Health Care Decisions: What Do Medical Ethics and the Law Tell Us." Also, Pastor Peter will present Funeral Planning at 9:30 a.m. on November 3.

Prayer and Anointing for Healing

Prayer and Anointing for Healing is offered this weekend by the WorshipLife and Prayer Ministry teams. No matter your need of healing for body, mind, spirit, or relationship, you are welcome to stop by the sanctuary prayer corner after worship.

September OWLS Trip

Wednesday, September 11

In September, the OWLS will go on Al and Alma's lunch cruise on Lake Minnetonka. We'll enjoy the perfect fusion of spectacular scenery and attentive award-winning service aboard Al and Alma's magnificent Lake Minnetonka Fleet. Cost is \$30. The bus leaves Central at 10:30 a.m. and returns at 3:15 p.m. Sign up at the welcome desk on August 24/25. Payment at time of sign up is preferred. For more information, contact Vicki Bierlein at wandav885@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

8:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Church Picnic

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

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 Connect
10:30 a.m. MN Brain Injury Alliance
11:00 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Community Meal
12:00 p.m. Bible Study

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

9:00 a.m. Emergency Rental Assistance
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Preacher

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

8:30 a.m. Street Voices of Change
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
10:30 a.m. Augsburg Central Women's Group
12:30 p.m. Emergency Rental Assistance

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

Building Closed

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

9:30 a.m. Downtown Grief Support Coalition
5:00 p.m. Worship
5:45 p.m. Saturday Evening Fellowship

Because of you...

Central partners with organizations in global missions. For many years, Central has provided ongoing financial support for missionaries serving as Wycliffe Bible Translators. The funds come from the Central budget and prayer support is initiated by the Global Mission Ministry team who works to discern and connect with our international missional outreach. Want to learn more about the work of this team? Contact Bonnie Weisenburger at bjweisenburger@comcast.net.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN
333 South 12th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-870-4416
centralmpls.org

"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