



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

the Spirit

AUG 31/SEP 1, 2019



life together

We are blessed at Central to join each other at a lot of tables. In worship we gather around the table of our Lord at the altar. At Council meetings, Bible study, and small groups, we gather around the conference tables (now all on wheels for easy transport!) And we gather at the round tables in the great room or around the picnic tables on the north plaza for lunch all the time, and for evening fellowship on Saturdays. Last Sunday it was fascinating to see everyone who showed up for the picnic and where folks landed.

First time visitors joined in the hot dog line next to people who were baptized at Central decades ago. The regulars who show up every Sunday or every Monday found the tables they are accustomed to, just like our “reserved” pews in the sanctuary. I hit up every table with human bingo cards and an invitation to get to know each other better. You know what, Central? You were into it. While a few folks opted out (all for perfectly good reasons), most of you wanted to play. Pastor Stephanie gave out all the prizes and everyone now knows that she owns a bird (it’s currently molting, *eww.*) And we all know each other a little better, even if it is as simple as favorite colors and who serves on council.

When Jesus encourages the folks at the party he’s attending to not think too highly of themselves, he is talking about these kind of relationships. He’s calling us to be open to one another. Sit at the place of humility and you will meet and dine with the best people, and when you throw a party, invite those who can only pay you back with their presence. You will be opened to one another. You will be fed. You will be blessed.

Pastor Melissa

Celebration for Pastor C

September 28 and 29

You are invited to worship and then to celebrate Pastor C on Saturday, September 28 or on Sunday, September 29. We will gather to give thanks to God for the ministry of Pastor C. We will gather to release him from service here as he prepares for his next calling in the church. There will be a reception for Pastor C after each worship service.

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.

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). Books can be purchased at the welcome desk.

worship and formation

Guide to Prayer

Listening for God

Jesus invites us to the ways of God's hospitality in the gospel reading for this weekend. His invitation is for the way of humility. Not a false humility, but the authentic way of welcome that flows from deep, unconditional love for all.

"But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher;' then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 14:10-11)

Listening to your life

Jesus is God's incarnate welcome for you. You are always at home in God's unconditional love that is experienced in Jesus Christ. How does a grounding in God's unconditional love open us to welcoming all? How does a grounding in God's unconditional love for you give you a sense of welcome, of hospitality and peace in your life? As you move through each day of your week, pay attention to the moments of hospitality and welcome you experience. Pay attention to the moments when God invites you to share hospitality or a welcome for someone. Take a moment each day to pause and 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

2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Summary of Actions

More than 900 voting members met August 5-10 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee for the ELCA 2019 Churchwide Assembly. This was the 15th gathering of the assembly, which is the primary decision-making body of the church. In addition to participating in worship and Bible studies, voting members deliberated and took actions regarding the work of the church. Read a summary of the key decisions that were made to further the mission and ministry of the church online at www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8003.

Organist James Hicks at Central Lutheran

Sunday, September 22, 4:00 p.m.

On Sunday, September 22 Central's music department together with the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present organist James Hicks in concert at 4:00 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.



Over the past several years, Jim has intensively researched a relatively unknown and unexplored corner of the organ repertoire: music of the Nordic countries. He has recorded eight compact discs for the *Pro organo* label, each focusing on the music of a specific Nordic country and performed on organs in that country. For the series (entitled "Nordic Journey") Jim has not only included unknown gems from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries but has also commissioned 22 new works from Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic, Swedish and Finnish composers. On his program at Central he will perform works by Kjell Mørk Karlsen, Gunnar Idenstam (whom you may remember presented a brilliant recital here a few years ago), Lars Karlsson, Sigurður Sævarsson, Fredrik Sixten, Kristian Blak, Anders Börjesson and Christian Præsthholm.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear some beautiful and dynamic literature played by one of America's great organists.



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

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

Building and Restoration Center Closed on Labor Day

Remember that the building and church office is closed for Labor Day, September 2. If you are in need of pastoral care, please call the main church phone number, 612-870-4416 and our after-hours answering service will connect you to the on-call pastor.

September Outdoor Worship and Potluck with Tree of Life

Sunday, September 1, 6:00 p.m., 1 N. Plymouth Ave, Minneapolis
This Labor Day weekend we're having casual worship and a picnic potluck in the park! Join us for worship with readings, songs and communion, then bring a dish and stay for a shared picnic. Bonus points for food that is a Bible or religion pun!

All are welcome! Meet in the park by the parking lot on W. River Parkway just south of Plymouth.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

8:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Baptism Orientation
11:45 a.m. New/Potential Member Orientation
6:00 p.m. Worship and Potluck with Tree of Life

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Building closed for Labor Day

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
12:30 p.m. Floral Guild
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

9:00 a.m. Emergency Rental Assistance
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Preacher
6:15 p.m. Central Choir Potluck
6:30 p.m. Adult Formation with Obie Holmen
7:15 p.m. Central Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

8:30 a.m. Street Voices of Change
9:00 a.m. Quilting for LWR
10:00 a.m. Augsburg Central Health Commons
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
10:30 a.m. Augsburg Central Women's Group
12:30 p.m. Emergency Rental Assistance

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

9:00 a.m. Quilting for LWR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

"Gods work. Our hands." Weekend

5:00 p.m. Worship
5:45 p.m. Saturday Evening Fellowship
6:00 p.m. Prayer Walk

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

"Gods work. Our hands." Weekend

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Community Meal
12:00 p.m. Prayer Walk

Because of you...

The Sunday school children make and present a tied fleece blanket to each family at the time of baptism to welcome them into the Central family. Funds for fabric come from the generosity of members. We thank them all for sharing their gifts with these newest members.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN
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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