



Central Lutheran  
MINNEAPOLIS

# the Spirit

AUGUST 3/4, 2019



## life together

Summer is my favorite season. It's warm and all the things I love to do outside happen now. I love the different idea of time that comes with the days being longer, and the way that frees us for things like ice cream for supper and family vacations.

I feel this freedom in the church during the summer too. We aren't as tied to our schedules, and we can be more creative. This has been an innovative summer at Central in the Community Mission Cluster. In mid-July we hosted the ELCA World Hunger Leaders Gathering. It brought together almost 200 people who do the work of feeding folks, working for justice, and funding that good work in our church. ELCA World Hunger impacts 62 countries including the U.S., and work for a world where all are fed. This event brought folks together to learn the basics of community organizing, to tour hunger ministries in our community (like Central and Pastor Jeffrey's church, Bethany), and to raise money for ELCA World Hunger. The banquet on Friday night both shared the amazing story of Pastor Veronica John, a Tanzanian missionary to Rwanda and raised over \$18,000 for ELCA World Hunger. Thank you to everyone who hosted, presented, and worked so hard to make that event a success.

Also in July, the Free Store held four days of "Christmas in July." We moved all the racks into the great room and invited folks to shop in our expanded inventory. We put out the Christmas decorations and sweaters and a few warm coats and encouraged folks with closets in their homes to get prepared for the weather that is soon to come.

Our shoppers loved being able to plan ahead and stock up for the winter. Our stockpile of inventory in the sorting room also supported our generosity as we have been experiencing God's abundance this summer. The Free Store could not be so successful or joyous without our amazing volunteers. They are the ones who make this ministry happen at Central.

Thank you for all your creativity and hope in these days as the sun is beginning to set sooner. Let's try to hold onto a little bit of this creativity and warmth as we return to our routines.

Pastor Melissa

### Summer on the Plaza

Summer on the Plaza continues this weekend. Plan your food truck dining through August 18. Please support our food truck vendors to allow this tradition to continue. Upcoming schedule:

- **August 4** - Food truck: El Jibarito; carillon recital: Mitchell Stecker
- **August 11** - Food truck: Tot Boss; carillon recital: music TBD
- **August 18** - Food truck: Sandy's Grill & Italian Ice; Children's VBS; music TBD

### Church Picnic

Save the date for Sunday, August 25 for the annual church picnic. The menu is set, the fun has been reserved. All we need is you.

### Summer Bible Study

The Book of Esther is a fascinating book in the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament). Esther is a remarkable and courageous woman and her story is worth study. Join Pastor Stephanie and Pastor Melissa for this study on both Sundays and Wednesdays in the fireside room.

- Sunday, August 4, 9:30 a.m.  
Theology of systems of oppression
- Wednesday, August 7, 6:30 p.m.  
Mordecai and Esther Speak
- Sunday, August 11, 9:30 a.m.  
Vocation and Time in Esther
- Wednesday, August 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Haman's Fall and Purim

# worship and formation

## Guide to Prayer

### Listening for God

Jesus is asked to arbitrate a dispute this week, and he responds by reminding the crowd that he didn't come as a judge. Instead that the way of God's kingdom is through being rich toward God, not in the possessions of this world. How does this reminder feel for you?

Wealth is a spectrum. What may seem wealthy in one neighborhood might be seen as abject poverty in another neighborhood. So before we get caught up in the debate about how wealthy is too wealthy, and how we are not really all that wealthy, let's remember that Jesus is asking us to be "rich toward God." What might that look like? Where would we store those kinds of riches?

The Rich Fool thinks that his soul feels good once he has built his new barns and eaten and drunk well. We often know that it is our soul that feels the emptiest when we try to satiate it with the things of this world, and it starves for the riches of God. It is our soul that can hold these riches.

### Listening to your Life

Where are you starving? Where and how are you being fed? What parts of your life feel rich and wealthy and whole? What bits keep you from experiencing this wholeness in your soul? How do you experience God's riches today or have you experienced them in the past? How do you envision experiencing being rich toward God in the future? Pause for a moment each day, light a candle to welcome the presence of God. Offer all of this to God in prayer.

## Wednesday Night Adult Faith Formation

Wednesdays, August 21 and 28, 6:30 p.m.

In June, Obie Holmen led a discussion of *A Wretched Man*, Obie's novel about Paul and the early church. In August, Obie will lead two Wednesday evening sessions discussing the sequel, *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.

The August sessions will be Wednesday evening the 21st and 28th at 6:30 p.m. Books are available for purchase at the welcome desk.

## Worship and Dinner with Tree of Life Lutheran

Sunday, August 4, 6:00 p.m., The Neu Neu, 514 N. 3rd St., Minneapolis  
You're invited to evening prayer and dinner around the themes of abundance, work, community and creation. We'll gather for worship at 6:00 p.m. and are excited to welcome our new musician, Nate Cray, for his first official Sunday with us! There will be lots of singing (of course) and candles, communion, prayer stations and food. If you've got extra produce from your garden, bring it to share! All are welcome. Check [Facebook.com/TreeofLifeMpls](https://www.facebook.com/TreeofLifeMpls) for details or contact Pastor Marissa at [PastorMarissa@TreeofLifeMpls.org](mailto:PastorMarissa@TreeofLifeMpls.org).

## Life Passages for July

**Baptisms** - *Marked with the cross of Christ forever*

Julian Cooper Younge was baptized Saturday, July 6.

Gwendolyn Gail Brocker was baptized Sunday, July 28.

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

Dennis Victor Griffin was born on June 19, 1933 and died on July 3, 2019. His funeral was held at Central on Saturday, July 13.

## Baptism Orientation Discussion

Anticipating a baptism in your family? Complete the baptism request form on the website and attend the monthly baptism orientation discussion this Sunday at 11:45 a.m. in epiphany.

## New and Potential Member Orientation Discussion

Are you considering joining Central? Are you a new member seeking to get more involved? Stop by the monthly new member discussion this Sunday at 11:45 a.m. in trinity.

# community

## Backpacks and School Supplies Needed for Children in Minneapolis' Shelters

Between July 27 and August 22, please consider purchasing all or some of the items on the wish list below. Bring your purchases to the welcome desk where you will find a box marked "Backpacks and School Supplies." However, if you wish to forego the fun of a shopping trip, you are invited to write a check to People Serving People indicating school supplies in the memo line and mail to 614 South 3rd St., Minneapolis, MN 55415. Michelle Whitney, the donations coordinator at PSP, estimates it takes about \$30 to equip one child for school, but she gladly accepts monetary donations in any amount.

Here is the generic wish list which PSP has developed:

#2 pencils	pencil sharpener
calculator	pens
colored pencils	ruler
crayons (24 pack)	book bags/backpacks
folders	scissors (youth size)
pencil box	washable markers

Next time you are at the store, pick up a few supplies to help these kids get off to a great start this school year. Thanks to DCEH for this collaborative effort and invitation.

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

The series will begin on October 27 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.

## England and Scotland with Pastor Stone

You are invited to join Pastor Judith Stone next March 16-26, 2020, as she leads another group on an 11-day adventure: highlights of England and Scotland. Call Pastor Judith for information at 612-812-1091 and a brochure. And come to an informational gathering on Sunday, August 11 at noon. It is sure to be another wonderful trip.



## 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
- Drop Off School Supplies

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

## Nip and Nosh

Tuesday, August 13, 6:00 p.m., north plaza

All women of Central Lutheran are cordially invited to the 3rd Annual Nip and Nosh, Tuesday, August 13 on the north plaza. If it rains, we will move into the great room. Initiated by women of ACTS Circle, who will provide the food, you are invited to bring a beverage to share and enjoy a casual time of friendly fellowship.

## Landscaping Work

The next phase in the landscaping work began this week. The Garden Ministry Team worked with a landscape architect for a masterplan. This is phase one of that work. It is also work that completes what was required by the city. Thank you to the Garden Ministry Team for all of their work. The team continues to bring beauty to the campus. It is a joy to celebrate that we are one of the largest green spaces in downtown.

## Restoration Center Closed August 5-8

The Restoration Center will be closed for a week for volunteer renewal time. There will not be a community meal during this time. All community ministries will resume Monday, August 12. While the Free Store is closed, we would love to accept your donations before and after worship on Saturdays and Sundays.

### Because of you...

Twenty-five middle schoolers, high schoolers and chaperones were able to spend time canoeing and camping for a week at Camp Amnicon this summer.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:30 a.m. Book of Esther Study  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:45 a.m. Summer on the Plaza  
11:45 a.m. Baptism Orientation  
11:45 a.m. New/Potential Member Orientation

## MONDAY, AUGUST 5

1:00 p.m. Street Voices of Change Facilitators Training

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Circle of Gratitude

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Preacher  
6:30 p.m. Book of Esther Study

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

8:30 a.m. Street Voices of Change

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

5:30 p.m. Middendorf/Tabery Wedding Rehearsal

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

9:30 a.m. Downtown Grief Support Coalition  
2:00 p.m. Middendorf/Tabery Wedding  
5:00 p.m. Worship  
5:45 p.m. Saturday Evening Fellowship

**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](http://www.elca.org)  
and the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness | [www.dceh.org](http://www.dceh.org)