



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

the Spirit

SEPTEMBER 7/8, 2019



life together

Open to the Mystery of God

Being open is one of the essentials for a life of faith in today's complex world. It is a gift to be open to God and it is a gift to be open to one another. When we are open to God, we become listeners for God's gracious invitations for our lives. When we are open to one another, we become listeners to one another's stories. When we are open to God and to one another, we enter the place of mystery. In that place of mystery, questions shape who we are and invite us to the place of vulnerability. One of the greatest questions that we begin with when we are open to the mystery of God is: who is God? From that question, other questions follow that open us to the mystery and to lives of faith, love, hope, justice and peace.

At the center of all the questions is God. God is the mystery that invites the questions and often opens us to deeper relationships through the questions. In the asking, we experience God, learn about who we are and what God is calling us to join for a world grounded in love, justice and peace.

For this program year, from September to May, the invitation to be open to the mystery of God will help shape worship, faith formation, community life and generosity. There will be many opportunities for us to be open to the mystery together with invitations to help us grow in an awareness of God, one another and our relationships with all our neighbors. The current issue of *Centering* should have arrived in your email inbox or your mailbox this week. Take some time to look at the various invitations and plan to join the conversations where we will center on being open to the mystery of God.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Peter

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 and release him from service here as he prepares for his next calling in the church. There will be a reception for him after each worship service.

Memory Book for Pastor C

Pastor C has asked Central members to contribute to a "memory book." Write your message to Pastor C on a card or plain paper and drop it off at the welcome desk any time up until September 29. You can also submit photos or other items as long as they are flat for mounting in a scrapbook. Your greeting can be handwritten or typed. If you have a digital photo but don't have a good quality printer, email it to Karl Starr at karl.r.starr@gmail.com and we'll print it for you.

Prayer Walks: September 7-9

This weekend, 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 invites us to reflect on priorities in the gospel reading for this weekend. In the reading he uses the sharp word "hate." It is helpful to consider the original language of the reading and how the word "hate" was understood. Scholars think that the word is best translated as "loving less" or "hold in perspective." Jesus does not call us to hate family or life itself, but to keep all in perspective, centering our primary love in God and allowing God's love to flow through us to family and all of life. Jesus' death on the cross reveals his priorities, his trust in God and love for you.

"Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.'" (Luke 14:25-27)

Listening to your life

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. How does the presence of God help shape your priorities? What perspective is given when you are centered in God's love for you? What changes or re-ordering of priorities are you called to in your life? Offer all of this to God.

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

Central Bell Choir

Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., sanctuary

Central Bell Choir rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 11. We meet at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, and always welcome new members. If you are interested in ringing in the bell choir, please contact Jane Lien at jlien@centralmpls.org or 612-767-9231.

Chorister Rehearsals Start September 22

Chorister rehearsals (a choir for children from age 5 through 5th grade) will begin on Sunday, September 22 following the 10:30 service. We meet in the Sunday school room. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Lien at jlien@centralmpls.org or 612-767-9231.

community

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.

Join Central's Tree of Life Ministry Team

Are you looking for a unique ministry opportunity for this coming program year? Join Central's Tree of Life Ministry Team! Tree of Life is a two-year-old Sunday evening worshipping community in the downtown North Loop neighborhood. We are primarily in our 20s and 30s (but you don't need to be!) and value a wide range of beliefs, backgrounds, and faith journeys.

We're looking for six more Central members to worship with, get to know, and provide some stability for our young community this year. The commitment is one Sunday evening per month, usually the first Sunday from 6:00-7:30 p.m. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Pastor Marissa Sotos at PastorMarissa@TreeofLifeMpls.org and join us for a beginning of the year meeting here at Central on Sunday, September 22 at 12:00 p.m. in epiphany.

Jeff and Cindy Rupprecht, current Tree Team members, say: "We experience Tree of Life as a wonderful, caring community with people whose spiritual travels have unique origins and unique paths. When worshipping among them, it is easy to imagine that this may be what the very first Christian "services" were like. Simple teachings, supportive fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayers. Acts 2:42 in a post-modern world."

Central Lutheran Church Foundation Seeks Candidates for Board of Trustee Positions

The Central Lutheran Church Foundation is seeking candidates for Board of Trustee positions. If you possess investment management, marketing or financial management background and experience and are interested in learning more about these positions and/or to submit a resume, please contact Bonnie Weisenburger at bjweisenburger@comcast.net or Pastor Peter. The deadline for receipt of resumes is September 27.



Sign up at the Welcome Desk

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

- Sign up for October OWLS Trip
- Memory Book items for Pastor C

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.

OWLS October Trip

Thursday, October 10

We'll start our day with lunch at Jax Cafe, known for a warm welcome and traditional atmosphere. Then we'll make our way to the historic Heights Theatre for a demonstration on their WCCO Mighty Wurlitzer, followed by our own special viewing of the award-winning classic film, *Portrait of Jenny*, one of the great film classics of the 1940s. Cost is \$20. Stop by the welcome desk to sign up on September 7/8, 14/15, and 21/22. For more information, contact Vicki Bierlein at wandav885@gmail.com

news and happenings

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, September 10, 1:00 p.m., fireside room

All knitters are invited to join in a meaningful ministry of making prayer shawls to give to anyone needing comfort and hope. We meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday. Bring your own knitting or let us help you get started. Questions? Contact Bobbie at bobbiespradley@comcast.net.

ACTS Circle

Tuesday, September 10, 6:00 p.m., nativity

All women who are interested in fellowship and fun are invited to join the women of ACTS Circle for a light supper and a program. We hope new faces will join us. All are welcome. The suggested cost for dinner is \$5. Please contact host Kirsten Harrison (kirsten.harrison@gmail.com) so we can plan for food.

A Different Kind of Book Club

Thursday, September 12, 1:30 p.m., nativity

This month, Glenn Nycklemoe will lead a discussion of "The Nightingale" by Kristen Hannah. It is a compelling novel of two sisters and their part in the WWII French resistance during the Nazi regime. All readers are welcome. For more information about the book club contact Bonnie Palmquist at 612-822-4348 or email at bonnieskier@yahoo.com

Because of you...

During the backpack and school supply drive this summer, Central members and friends were able to contribute the following to children in Hennepin County Shelters:

- 265 pocket folders
- 120 boxes of crayons
- 105 boxes of colored pencils
- 103 packs of #2 pencils
- 76 rulers
- 64 glue sticks or bottles
- 59 boxes of markers
- 53 scissors
- 52 backpacks
- 51 pencil sharpeners
- 50 notebooks
- 38 packs of pens
- 25 calculators
- 22 pencil bags
- Plus miscellaneous other items such as water bottles, lunch bags, erasers, and index cards

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 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. StreetSong Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Community Meal
- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study/Prayer Walk
- 5:30 p.m. Karios Capital Appeal Team

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

- 10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
- 1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee
- 6:00 p.m. ACTS Circle

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- 9:00 a.m. Emergency Rental Assistance
- 10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
- 10:30 a.m. OWLS Leave for Trip
- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Preacher
- 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
- 7:15 p.m. Central Choir

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- 8:30 a.m. Street Voices of Change
- 10:00 a.m. Augsburg Central Health Commons
- 10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
- 10:30 a.m. Augsburg Central Women's Group
- 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, SEPTEMBER 13

Building closed

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- 5:00 p.m. Worship
- 5:45 p.m. Saturday Evening Fellowship

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