



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

the Spirit

FEBRUARY 1/2, 2020



life together

As we do every January, a large group of us attended Family Camp last weekend at Camp Wapo just across the Minnesota-Wisconsin border. Forty of us gathered for fellowship, fun, worship and play. Participants ranged from age 7 to just over 80 and everyone left with a refreshed sense of God's

presence in their lives.

What does one do at family camp? Well, let me tell you.

We play. On Friday night, many of us played broomball and went sledding on inner tubes down the hill next to our lodge. Parents and kids ran around outside on a beautiful January night and then came in for fellowship and games. On Saturday after breakfast, some learned to ski and some slid down a giant hill complete with a 'magic carpet' that transported them back to the top of the hill to slide down all over again. We sat by a woodburning fire and learned something about each person present.

We eat together. The staff at Wapo cooks for us so we enjoy fellowship and great conversation over meals in a large dining hall. Parents talk about the joys and challenges of family life—of parenting children and adolescents. The kids talk about school and activities and the latest and greatest events of their lives. We exchange stories that connect and secure us into a beloved church community.

We worship. We gather on Sunday morning for worship in a "come as you are" setting where we experience God's presence in Word and Sacrament. The kids giggle as they say prayers in their pajamas and give thanks for a weekend that takes us out of our routines to encounter and experience God in another place.

It was a spirit-filled weekend that allows many of our families to connect in significant and meaningful ways—a highlight of our life together.

Pastor Stephanie

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation

February

2 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. Open to the Mystery of God in Community — with Pastor Melissa

9 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. Open to the Mystery of God in Faith: Enneagram – Understanding Ourselves, One Another and God. Led by Pastor Stephanie

16 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. Dr. Mary Lowe, Augsburg University, Open to the Mystery of God in Women and Justice. Why does God care about women and justice?

12:00 p.m. Empowering Conversations (Peace with Justice) Forum with Dr. Mary Lowe, Augsburg University. Join this lunch and deep conversation as we ponder God's call for women and justice. Why does God care about gender equality and gender and justice?

23 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. Enneagram: How it shapes prayer. Led by Pastor Peter

Annual Open Budget Meeting and Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 2, 11:45 a.m., fireside room
The annual open budget meeting will be this Sunday. You can grab your lunch and join this walk-through of the proposed budget for 2020. Treasurer John Olson, and director of finance, Obie Holmen, will lead this meeting. The open budget meeting is the time to ask questions and learn about the many moving financial parts of Central's mission.

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, February 9, at 12 p.m. in the great room. The main agenda items are to adopt the 2020 budget and approve the nominating committee recommendations for leadership for 2020. We will also hear the financial reports, strategic plan team report, an overview of the building renewal finances as that project comes to completion and reports from leaders, pastors and staff. The annual report is available at the welcome desk or online.

Exploring the promise of God for all

worship and formation

Guide to Prayer

Listening for God

Jesus' ministry begins this week in our readings. Having been baptized by John and tempted by Satan, Jesus returns to Galilee, calls the disciples and engages the crowds with words that proclaim the vision of the kingdom of heaven.

Rather than announcing a strategy or plan, Jesus speaks these remarkable words, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

These words invite us into a new reality. They are not recommendations for Godly living; these words call us into new life as Jesus followers. These words call us into the fulfilled prophesy that the Messiah has come and a new day has dawned in which all are blessed.

Listening to your life

For a few minutes each day this week, stop and think about the many blessings in your life. After taking a few deep breaths think about those whom have been blessings to you. What are the experiences that you recall as blessings and sacred moments? Then, in a moment of prayer, give thanks for the people and experiences that have blessed you. Imagine how you might be a blessing to others. Invite God's spirit to work in and through you as one of God's beloved children.

Camp Amnicon is Calling

The annual high school retreat at Camp Amnicon is coming at the end of February. All students grades 9-12 are invited for an overnight at Camp Amnicon the weekend of February 22-23. We will travel by van leaving Central at 9:00 a.m. Saturday and returning Sunday around 2:00 p.m. Join us for winter fun and fellowship at our favorite spot on the North Shore. Students should bring sleeping bags, pillows, cold weather clothing and a sense of adventure! Sign-up in the youth room at church or by emailing Pastor Stephanie.

Baptism Orientation Discussion

Anticipating a baptism in your family? Complete the baptism request form on the website and attend the monthly baptism orientation discussion on Sunday, February 2 at 11:45 a.m. in the epiphany room. You are welcome to bring your food from the Sunday meal if you desire.

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 Sunday, February 2 at 11:45 a.m. in the trinity room. You are welcome to bring your food from the Sunday meal if you desire.

February Worship and Dinner with Tree of Life Lutheran

Sunday, February 9, 6:00 p.m., The Neu Neu, 514 N 3rd St, Minneapolis
This month we're talking salt, light and justice. Come as early as 5:30 p.m. for tea and conversation, then evening prayer with communion is at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. We'd love to see you there! Check [Facebook.com/TreeofLifeMpls](https://www.facebook.com/TreeofLifeMpls) for details or contact Pastor Marissa at PastorMarissa@TreeofLifeMpls.org.

Downtown Church Choral Festival

Sunday, February 9, 2:00 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church
Next Sunday, the biennial Downtown Church Choral Festival will take place at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 2:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. This year's festival is the tenth, the first having taken place in 2000. In addition to our Central Choir, choirs from Plymouth Congregational, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist, St. Mark's (Episcopal) Cathedral, Westminster Presbyterian and the Basilica of St. Mary will be participating. Each choir performs one piece individually and all 400 voices will unite to sing mass chorus works by Edward Elgar, Abbie Bettinis, Gerald Near and a new commission by Paul Rudoi. Come to Central's 10:30 service, stay for lunch and the annual meeting then head over to Westminster (12th and Marquette). Parking in Westminster's lot is also available.

community

Young Adults Gathering

Tuesday, February 11, 6:30 p.m., lower narthex

This month, we will meet in the lower narthex for snacks and beverages along with some learning time led by Pastor Stephanie. The plan is to explore Rolf Jacobson's "Crazy Talk – A Not-So-Stuffey Dictionary of Theological Terms." To let us know how many to plan for, please contact Pastor Stephanie to let her know that you'll be joining us. And, mark your calendars for March 26 when we plan to see the Timberwolves at Target Center.

A Different Kind of Book Club

Thursday, February 13, 1:30 p.m., nativity

This month, we will be reading "Information Wars, How We Lost the Global Battle Against Disinformation and What We Can Do About It" by Richard Stengel. Discussion leader will be Myron Just. In March we are reading "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson. Discussion leader, Dick Shinofield. Any questions may be directed to Bonnie Palmquist at bonnieskier@yahoo.com or 612-822-4348.

Empowering Conversations

Sunday, February 16, 12:00 p.m., great room

Join us for our next Empowering Conversation featuring Dr. Mary Lowe. Dr. Lowe is Associate Professor of Religion at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. She received her M.Div. from Luther Seminary and earned her Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif. Her teaching and research focus on contemporary theologies, LGBTQI theologies, Martin Luther's theology, and disability theologies. Prof. Lowe was on the writing team for the new ELCA social statement, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action."

Update on Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh

In October 2018, Pastors Melissa and Stephanie plus five Central members traveled to Dumki, Bangladesh to visit the hospital that serves as the headquarters for the "Integrated Health and Community Development Project" known as Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh. LHCB is sponsored jointly by the Global Mission unit of the ELCA and a number of Lutheran congregations in Minnesota, including Central Lutheran.

Over a soup and sandwich lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 20, several members of Central's mission team will reflect on their experiences in Dumki and report on the ongoing work of the development project—its successes and challenges. Members of Circle of Hope and Circle of Friends will be hosting the program, but all interested people are encouraged to attend.

Lunch will cost \$5.00 as you go through the serving line. Please sign up at the welcome desk if you plan on attending.



Sign up at the Welcome Desk

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

- Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh Luncheon
- OWLS February Gathering
- Confirmation Worship Notes
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study Materials
- Annual Report

eSpirit

Stay up-to-date on the upcoming weekend happenings 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 information. If you don't receive this electronic newsletter, please sign up at www.centralmpls.org or email Sara Masters at smasters@centralmpls.org.

Winter Weather Closings

It's that time of year when the schools close because of snow or cold and we want to remind you of our winter weather closing policy. We follow the Minneapolis Public Schools and when they do not have school because of the weather, Central will close our building and offices too. When we close, we will post it on our website and voicemail and an email will go out.

news and happenings

OWLS February Gathering

Wednesday, February 12

It's sequins, spandex and feather boas on a Greek Island paradise! Get ready to have the time of your life with "Mamma Mia!" Don't miss the theatrical sensation that's been enjoyed by over 60 million people across the globe. A large cast, non-stop laughs and explosive dance numbers make "Mamma Mia!" a guaranteed smash hit that'll have you dancing in the aisles! Cost is \$30. Lunch will be at Chanhassen Dinner Theater. Sign up at the welcome desk on February 1/2. Payment at time of sign up is preferred. For more information, contact Vicki Bierlein at wandav885@gmail.com.

Life Passages for January

Wedding - *What God has joined together, let no one separate*

Elsa Block and Blake Ehley were married at Central Lutheran on Saturday, January 24.

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

Anita Bernice Mattson was born June 3, 1925 and died December 15, 2019. The funeral service was held at Central January 5.

Mary Ann Johnson was born March 13, 1936 and died January 8. The funeral service was held at Central on January 17.

Valerie Louise Reek was born September 4, 1932 and died January 23. The funeral service was held at David Lee Funeral Home on January 31.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 3:00 p.m. Preschool Formation
- 3:00 p.m. Rake/Barnes Wedding
- 5:00 p.m. Worship
- 5:45 p.m. Saturday Evening Fellowship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Confirmation/High School Youth
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:45 a.m. Community Meal
- 11:45 a.m. Baptism Orientation
- 11:45 a.m. New/Potential Member Orientation
- 11:45 a.m. Open Budget Meeting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- 10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
- 10:00 a.m. Augsburg Central Health Commons
- 10:00 a.m. Community Meal Volunteers
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Community Meal
- 12:00 p.m. StreetSong Rehearsal
- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m. WorshipLife Ministry Team

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 9:00 a.m. Free Store Volunteers
- 10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. Empowering Conversations Team
- 6:00 p.m. Circle of Gratitude

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- 10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Preacher
- 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Winter Bible Study: The Gospel of John
- 7:15 p.m. Central Choir

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 9:00 a.m. Quilting for LWR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- 1:00 p.m. Funeral for Jim Sample
- 5:00 p.m. Worship
- 5:45 p.m. Saturday Evening Fellowship

Because of you...

The Central quilting group meets each month and contributes their skills to assemble quilts for 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.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN
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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.

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