



Central Lutheran  
MINNEAPOLIS

# the Spirit

JANUARY 11/12, 2020



## life together

John doesn't really want to baptize Jesus. He recognizes Jesus as the one for whom he was unworthy to even untie his sandals. John knows that his job is to point to Jesus, not to be better than Jesus, or to be more flashy, or more able to draw a crowd. John knows his place in the order of things and says to Jesus, "You should be baptizing me!" Jesus tells John, this is just something that has to get done, and in the gospel of Matthew fashion, this act is more than just a thing to do, it also fulfills all righteousness. What John couldn't understand was that the God of the universe was going to show up at that particular moment and claim his only son. What John couldn't understand was that Jesus' baptism was going to become the first baptism in a long string of baptisms. As Jesus was leaving the earth he was going to tell his followers to continue to baptize. John's baptisms were about cleansing folks of their sins and setting them on new right pathways. After Jesus' baptism, they are also about the Holy Spirit showing up and claiming God's people.

What do you remember about your baptism? For most of us, we don't remember much of anything because we were pretty little. Some of us were baptized as children or adults and remember every bit of it. Hopefully, if you were little, you had people in your life who could tell you about it and help you remember it on the anniversary.

Being a part of this amazing community of Christ we get to experience baptisms quite often. I've never been at a baptism where God spoke from above and said, "This is my child, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased." But I've also never been at a baptism where the entire community wasn't smiling and excited and joyful and welcoming and thrilled. We act as the body of Christ in those moments and we remind the beloved of their belovedness. The secret is that we can never stop being those people. In fact, we promise in every baptism that we will pray for them, that we will uphold them, that we will love them. We make these promises on behalf of the whole church in the whole world. I encourage you to spend some time this week reflecting on how you are fulfilling these promises. As Jesus reminded John, we need to know that this is our job. I'm so thankful I get to do it in this place with you, God's amazing people.

Shalom,  
Pastor Melissa

### Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation

#### January

##### 12 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. Open to the Mystery of God in Formation – with Pastor Stephanie

##### 19 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. Open to the mystery of God in Diversity.

12:00 p.m. Empowering Conversations (Peace with Justice) Forum. Why should the church care about diversity? (see p. 3)

##### 26 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. Open to the Mystery of God in Generosity – with Pastor Peter

#### 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

# worship and formation

## Guide to Prayer

### Listening for God

This weekend we celebrate Jesus' baptism. No longer a baby or toddler, Jesus has grown and matured yet the community knows nothing about all that is about to take place. John is at the Jordan baptizing with water for repentance calling his followers to turn and be open to God—to be in relationship with God. In the midst of his ministry, John announces the one to come—one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. And, when Jesus comes to the river for baptism, John resists saying "I need to be baptized by you," but Jesus says no and what happens next changes everything.

"And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:16-17)

### Listening to your Life

In baptism there is the beautiful sense of belonging. God welcomes and claims us as God's very own beloved children. How does this belonging give you a sense of comfort? Of connectedness? When you have experienced the baptism of a loved one, what did you feel for God, for the individual and for the community? Pause today and light a candle to welcome the renewing and welcoming presence of God. Take notice of your breathing, God's spirit in your life. Remember and give thanks for the saints who brought the gift of baptism to you.

## Winter Wednesday Evening Bible Study: The Gospel of John

Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.

You are invited to join Pastor Peter for the winter Bible study that continues this week. The study is open to all, and no previous Bible study experience is needed. Pastor Peter provides materials for the entire study, so if you need to miss a session or two, it is easy to keep up as you move through the book.

The study time concludes at 7:00 p.m. in time for choir members to get to choir by 7:15 p.m. The study is six weeks long, concluding on February 12. Plan to attend this winter study. The Bible study material is available at the welcome desk or online.

## It's time for Family Camp!

January 24-26

Please join us for a weekend of fun, food and fellowship as we gather in January for Family Camp! The dates are January 24-26 and we gather at Camp Wapo in Amery, Wis. Families are encouraged to either carpool or drive on their own. We meet at camp between 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. on Friday and engage in a variety of activities until Sunday at noon. All families are welcome and all meals are provided. The cost is \$70 per adult, \$50 per child age 12-18 and \$35 per child age 11 and younger. We typically spend Saturday afternoon at Trollhaugen skiing or snowtubing and there is an extra charge for this depending on the activity you choose. This is a great opportunity for you to make connections and build relationships with other friends and families at Central. For questions or to sign up, email Pastor Stephanie at [sfriesen@centralmpls.org](mailto:sfriesen@centralmpls.org).

## Life Passages for December

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

Carter David Miller was baptized on December 21.

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

The funeral for Kjersten Marie (June 13, 1980 – December 1, 2019), William David (November 4, 2008 – December 1, 2019) and Nelson Sidney (October 24, 2011 – December 1, 2019) was held at Central on December 14.

Douglas Robert Stoffel was born on May 13, 1949 and died January 28, 2019. His funeral was held December 14 at the Washburn-McReavy Funeral Home.

Lowell Elmer Christensen was born on July 13, 1937 and died on December 16, 2019. His funeral was held at Central on December 20.

# community

## Empowering Conversations

Sunday, January 19, 12:00 p.m.

We have two great facilitators helping us explore the mystery of God next Sunday: the Rev. Babette Chatman and Felecia Boone. They will be with us to talk about how they have come to understand who God is in light of God's beautifully diverse people. When God says, "let us make humankind in our own image," God then creates the people of the world of every race and culture. How does celebrating this diversity help us to better know God in whose image we are created?

The Rev. Babette Chatman currently serves on the staff of Augsburg University Campus Ministry as one of the campus pastors. A member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in north Minneapolis, Babette serves across the Minneapolis Area Synod as a member of the Mission Table, Leaders of Color and as an advisor to Strategic Organizing Against Racism (SOAR) Team.

Felecia Boone currently serves as the vice-president of the Minneapolis Area Synod. She is a member of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis where she is a member of the property and race equity committees and the Crossroads Community Organization, a 501c3 started by Calvary.

They will lead adult faith formation at 9:30 a.m. in the lower narthex and Empowering Conversations in the great room at noon. If you are planning to take part in Empowering Conversations, please grab some lunch and sit at the designated tables near the windows.

## Public Event Hosts Needed

Central Lutheran has started its next 100 years with the opportunity to host several events. With those events comes the need for public event hosts. Public event hosts greet guests, provide directions within our building, and get to listen to some amazing speakers, hear beautiful music, and observe some historic events.

A partial list includes the following. There are others in the planning stages for May and June.

- April 24: opening worship service for the Minneapolis Area Synod assembly ([mpls-synod.org/our-synod/synod-assembly](http://mpls-synod.org/our-synod/synod-assembly))
- May 17: Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra ([msomn.org/shakespeare-chaminade](http://msomn.org/shakespeare-chaminade))
- May 31: Luther Seminary commencement
- July 4-8: GALA festival 2020 ([galachoruses.org/events/gala-festival](http://galachoruses.org/events/gala-festival))

If you are interested in being a host for these or other events, please join Judith Hedman and current hosts at lunch on Sunday, January 26 in the great room.



## Sign up at the Welcome Desk

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

- OWLS January Gathering
- Worship Notes
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study Materials

## 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 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).

## 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

## ACTS Circle

Tuesday, January 14, 6:00 p.m., nativity

ACTS Circle will begin the new year by meeting January 14 at Central Lutheran. All women who are interested in Christian fellowship and fun are invited to join the women of ACTS Circle. This month we will continue our programming using *Gather* magazine. A light meal is provided at a cost of \$5.00. Please contact host Kathy Fiscus (kathy@enerjyn.com) so we can plan for food. We would love for new friends to join us.

## OWLS January Gathering

Wednesday, January 15

In January, lunch will be at Central starting at 11:45 a.m. and then we'll enjoy a performance by Teddy Roosevelt look-a-like, Adam Lindquist, who makes Teddy Roosevelt come alive in a fun and engaging first person presentation about the exciting life of one of our most colorful Presidents. Sign up at the welcome desk January 11/12. Cost is \$15. For more information, contact Vicki Bierlein at wandav885@gmail.com.

## Scotland and England with the Nycklemoes

Interested in visiting ancient ruins, cathedrals, abbeys, castles, from Edinburgh, Scotland to London, England, all through the lens of Celtic Spirituality? Pastor Kathie Nycklemoe (accompanied by Pastor Peter) will be leading such an opportunity September 25-October 6. Contact Pastor Kathie at knycklemoe@ststephen.net for more information, or pick up a brochure from Pastor Peter.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

3:00 p.m. 4th Grade Stepping Stone  
5:00 p.m. Worship  
5:45 p.m. Saturday Evening Fellowship

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

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  
12:30 p.m. Listening for God

## MONDAY, JANUARY 13

8:00 a.m. Community Organizing Trip Leaves  
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens  
10:00 a.m. Augsburg Central Health Commons  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Community Meal  
12:00 p.m. StreetSong Rehearsal  
12:00 p.m. Bible Study

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

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

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens  
11:45 a.m. OWLS Luncheon  
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, JANUARY 16

8:30 a.m. Street Voices of Change  
10:00 a.m. Augsburg Central Health Commons  
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Building closed

### Because of you...

More than 1,700 people attended Christmas worship here at Central. Thank you to all the decorators, hosts, ushers, choir members, musicians, sacristans, communion servers, readers, "Mary and Joseph," and staff for making Christmas services welcoming and beautiful.

**CENTRAL LUTHERAN**  
333 South 12th Street  
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**"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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and Align Minneapolis | [www.alignmpls.org](http://www.alignmpls.org)