



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

the Spirit

JANUARY 25/26, 2020



life together

To Follow is To Listen

Jesus invites his disciples to follow in the gospel lesson for this weekend. His call for the disciples to follow is one of the central moments in the gospels and in a life of faith. In Matthew's Gospel the invitation comes to these first disciples by the sea. Matthew records that Peter and Andrew immediately "left their nets and followed him." (Matthew 4:20)

It is remarkable that they just dropped everything they were doing and followed. They dropped their entire way of life. For some, this radical following is an option. For most of us, with dear relationships to tend, daily responsibilities and bills to pay, it is not an option to drop it all and follow. How to follow in the midst of the daily routines of family, work and life is the question. It is a question of daily obedience, which is one of the most frequently noted words for spiritual teachers and mystics. What does it mean to obediently follow God in the ebb and flow of daily life?

Henri Nouwen's teaching from *Here and Now* showed up in devotionals this week. Nouwen writes that obedience is an essential word that may not mean what we think it means. That obedience is perhaps the key to what it means to follow, a following that is essentially about listening. Nouwen writes, "To pray is to listen to that voice of love. That is what obedience is all about. The word obedience comes from the Latin word *ob-audire*, which means 'to listen with great attentiveness.' Without listening, we become 'deaf' to the voice of love. The Latin word for deaf is *surdus*. To be completely deaf is to be *absurdus*, yes, absurd." (Here and Now, page 20)

Peter and Andrew listened, and in the voice of Jesus they heard the voice of love. Maybe to follow is to listen. Sometimes listening may cause us to drop everything to follow the voice of love. More often, listening causes us to be fully present to the voice of love and in turn present to the ways we share that love with family, at work, in your neighborhood, with friends and in every moment of your daily life. That doesn't sound absurd at all.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Peter

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation

January

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

Annual Open Budget Meeting

Sunday, February 2, 11:45 a.m., fireside room
The annual open budget meeting will be next Sunday, February 2, at 11:45 a.m. 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.**

worship and formation

Guide to Prayer

Listening for God

Just to make sure we are listening, our lectionary reminds us again this week of Jesus' call to his disciples and to us. In our story this week, Jesus finds Simon and Andrew fishing and he calls to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately, they left their nets and followed him."

Jesus calls us from our vocational lives to redirect and follow as his disciples. Regardless of your occupation or vocation, we are encouraged to momentarily leave something behind. We work in offices, classrooms, and kitchens, churches, courtrooms and call-centers. Jesus calls each of us to step away and be mindful of our call as God's people to love and serve our neighbors with kindness and compassion throughout our lives.

Listening to your life

Martin Luther had a great deal to say about vocation and discipleship. We often think of work and faith as mutually exclusive—separating our work lives from our faith lives. Luther found the two to be intertwined—linked for the good of all. How might we think differently about work and faith? How might you see your occupation or vocation as serving God's people for the good of all creation? How are you living out your faith in daily life? God is at work in you through the Holy Spirit.

Going Deeper with the Enneagram – Prayer Class with the Rev. Kathie Nycklemoe

Sunday, January 26, 1:00 p.m., nativity

The Enneagram is a remarkable tool to help us grow in our self-understanding, our awareness of others and an attentiveness to God. Following up on that Enneagram retreat in October, the Prayer Ministry Team is offering specific classes on prayer forms that connect contemplative prayer to various Enneagram temperaments. The Rev. Kathie Nycklemoe, who has led a number of prayer classes here at Central, will offer follow-up opportunities to go deeper in the Enneagram through contemplative prayer. All who have done some basic work with the Enneagram are invited to attend. The second of these contemplative prayer times will be offered this Sunday. No need to sign up, just plan to attend!

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, 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.

Saturday Evening Worship

Join us for worship this Saturday evening, January 25 at 5:00 p.m. and stay for fellowship when Saturday volunteer Alan Filzen will prepare an Italian meal to celebrate his birthday. We hope to see you in worship and at the dining table!

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.

Tree of Life Ministry Team

Are you interested in ministry downtown with young adults? Join the Tree of Life Ministry Team! Tree is expanding from one service per month to two, on first and third Sunday afternoons, and we need your help to create stability and welcome in our new pattern. We're looking for six more people to join the fabulous Central Tree of Life Team already worshipping with us: Lorene Gilliksen, Jeff and Cindy Rupprecht, Jeff and Heidi Haines, Karen Hielsberg and Joan Van Wirt. You can ask any of them to share their thoughts, or for more information email Pastor Marissa Sotos at PastorMarissa@TreeofLifeMpls.org.

community

Hats and Gloves for Men Needed in the Free Store

As the winter season settles upon us, volunteers in the Free Store are discovering that many of our guests lack the essential outerwear necessary to avoid frostbite and hypothermia—coats, boots, hats, gloves, and mittens. Almost every day that we're open, we run out of these much needed items. Please check your closets to see if you have any extra winter gear just taking up space. We especially need men's hats and gloves.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 9, 11:45 a.m., great room

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, February 9. Plan to stay for lunch and this meeting to review and celebrate the ministry and mission of the congregation. 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 Project finances as that project comes to completion and reports from leaders, pastors and staff. The annual report will be available in print on the weekend of February 1/2, and a digital copy will be on the church website by that weekend, as well.

A Different Kind of Book Club

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

In February, 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. Any questions may be directed to Bonnie Palmquist at bonnieskier@yahoo.com or 612-822-4348.

Travel Opportunities with Augsburg University

Join Augsburg in celebration of their 150th year with once in a lifetime travel opportunities to Norway. These small group tours, which will be led by Augsburg faculty and staff, will explore Norway through two different lenses. Explore this country's vibrant arts and culture in May 2020 with the husband and wife team Darcey Engen '88 and Luverne Siefert '85, and cap your visit with a celebratory Syttende Mai festival in Bergen. Or in August 2020, hike the mountains of Norway along the Pilgrims Path along the Niderose Pilgram Trail with the Rev. Sonja Hagandar, vice-president for Mission and Identity.

To learn more about any of these trips you can reach out to Katie Koch Code '01, director of Alumni Relations or go to www.augsburg.edu/alumni/travel.



Sign up at the Welcome Desk

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

- OWLS February Gathering
- Confirmation 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 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 January 25/26 and February 1/2. Payment at time of sign up is preferred. For more information, contact Vicki Bierlein at wandav885@gmail.com.

National Lutheran Choir Winter Concert

Sunday, February 16, 4:00 p.m., St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church
Join the National Lutheran Choir for this eclectic program celebrating the depth and breadth of the Lutheran choral tradition, featuring works by Felix Mendelssohn, Ola Gjeilo, and Ralph Vaughan Williams, set alongside new arrangements of familiar tunes, including Kenneth Dake's "Sweet Hour of Prayer." St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church is at 17205 County Road 6, Plymouth.

Tickets: adults and seniors \$28; students and children free. Discounts available for groups of 10 or more. For tickets and more information, please visit NLCA.com or call 612-722-2301.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

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
12:00 p.m. Heading Home Central
1:00 p.m. Going Deeper with the Enneagram

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

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. MN Brain Injury Alliance
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 28

10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m. Congregation Council
7:00 p.m. Search Committee

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

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, JANUARY 30

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. Prayer Ministry Team

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

Building closed

Because of you...

Members of the Floral Guild coordinate donations to beautify the sanctuary for weekly services as well as Easter and Christmas. Want to join the team or donate flowers? Contact Judy Korogi at 612-788-1288.

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.

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