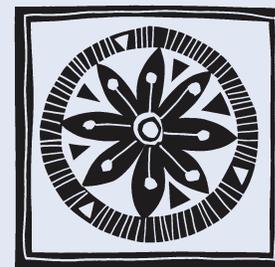




Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

the Spirit

FEBRUARY 15/16, 2020



life together

You Have Heard...But I Say to You

Jesus is full of surprises. When we think we have him figured out, or more likely in our control, he sidesteps our expectations and invites us into new ways of living. We see this in the gospel lesson for

this weekend. Jesus continues his sermon on the mount. He draws us in with a challenging and illuminating cadence: "You have heard... but I say to you." With each of these cadences, Jesus expands the letter of the law into a deeper understanding of our human brokenness and the possibilities for faithful living. Jesus invites us to reflect on the intentions of the heart.

When our kids were learning to drive, one of our budding motorists rolled through a stop sign in our neighborhood. When I pointed out the rolling stop, I was asked, "Why is there a stop sign at this intersection; we drive through here all the time and there is never anyone here?" I agreed that it may be an odd place for a stop sign, but the law is the law. We stop because it is the law. More so, we also stop because the stop sign points beyond the law. I asked our budding motorist, "Why do you think there might be a stop sign here in the neighborhood?" After a few moments of reflection, the answer came, "Because there are a lot of kids in the neighborhood and it is probably a good idea to slow down." Exactly. The stop sign is for good order, but it is also about relationships and care. You have heard that it is good to obey the law and stop at the stop sign, but I say to you that it is also a reminder of the community and that little humans may be flying through this intersection on their bikes.

In each of the cadences in the gospel lesson this weekend, Jesus invites us to slow down and tend to the intentions of our hearts. It is there that we find a stop sign is more than an inconvenience, but an opening to how we are called to be aware of our neighbors, both great and small.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Peter

Sunday Adult Faith Formation

February

16 – Sunday

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

Ash Wednesday February 26

Lent's 40 days of fasting, prayer, and works of love begin on February 26 with Ash Wednesday services at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Expect optional imposition of ashes at this Holy Communion service. Saturdays and Sundays in Lent will be simple celebrations of the Lord's Supper. We'll include confession each week as part of our gathering.

Building Closed Monday, February 17

In observance of the President's Day holiday, the church building will be closed on Monday, February 17. The Restoration Center will be closed and there will not be a community meal.

Book Study on Henri Nouwen's "Life of the Beloved"

Wednesday, February 19, 6:00 p.m.

Join Pastor Stephanie on Wednesday, February 19 for a study on Henri Nouwen's book "Life of the Beloved." This little book unpacks spiritual living in a secular world —exploring what it means to be *Taken*, *Blessed*, *Broken* and *Given*. It's a beautiful reflection on self-understanding as we move into Lent. All are welcome. Books are available for purchase at the welcome desk.

worship and formation

Guide to Prayer

Listening for God

Continuing to hear the words of Jesus' remarkable Sermon on the Mount, the wisdom of this week's lesson points us toward the reality of the fully redeemed Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus speaks words that are often hard for us to hear in the here and now, and yet when we listen as a people who have witnessed a Kingdom of Heaven moment, these challenging words become easier to hear.

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'" (Matthew 5:38)

In the fully redeemed Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus draws us into a world where all God's children live and participate in beloved community. The actions and behaviors that cause us to sin will be swallowed up by the reality of beloved community—a community in which love, grace and forgiveness abound—a life in which we are all drawn into a community of unity.

Listening for your life

As you listen to your own life, how are you drawn to the Kingdom of Heaven? Are there places and opportunities for you to invite or be invited into relationships that renew and restore? This week consider the people and places that invite you into beloved community.

Lenten Worship

Intentional time reflecting on the Lord's Prayer through the lens of Martin Luther's teaching in the Small Catechism guides our Wednesday mid-day prayer and helps shape the evening prayer experience.

Ash Wednesday

12:00 and 7:00 p.m. worship; 1:00 p.m. soup, bread and salad lunch

Wednesdays in Lent

12:00 p.m. - Service of Word and Prayer

12:30 p.m. - Light lunch follows service (soup, bread and salad)

1:00 p.m. - God's Word in Our Midst Bible Study

4:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Prayer stations; prayer around the cross; labyrinth (in the sanctuary)

6:00 p.m. - Adult Faith Formation reflection on the Lord's Prayer through the lens of Martin Luther's teaching in the Small Catechism; Bell Choir rehearsal

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. - ELW Evening Prayer

7:30 p.m. - Central Choir rehearsal

Invitation to Write a Lenten Devotional

This year the Lenten journey will be guided by the Lord's Prayer, supported by Martin Luther's teaching on the prayer in the Small Catechism. As a part of our congregation's Lenten journey, the prayer team is working to produce our own Lenten devotional. It will be similar to the generosity devotional that helped ground the capital appeal in prayer and God's presence. A booklet will be produced for the season and the devotionals will be emailed out each day as we journey to the cross and Easter Sunday.

You are invited to consider writing a devotional for one of the days of Lent. The devotional is to be a reflection on one part of the Lord's Prayer that is particularly meaningful for you. The devotional should be less than 250 words, so a short reflection. Pastor Peter will work with you on the details and offer any support. If you are interested, please email Pastor Peter at pnycklemoe@centralmpls.org and he will follow up with you on the details and logistics.

"Caring Ones" offering to begin the weekend of February 29-March 1

Central's congregation is a generous and caring one and "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). So we offer another opportunity to grow in mission support beyond our regular giving. As we enter the Lenten season, the Generosity Ministry Team, formerly known as Faith and Finances, is inaugurating a new quarterly offering called "Caring Ones" (\$1 bills). Worshippers are invited to place dollar bills in the offering plate. This new mission offering will begin at all services on the weekend of Saturday, February 29 and Sunday, March 1.

The ministry team is excited to invite everyone, including those who regularly give their offering electronically online, to place dollars bills in the offering plate the first weekend of each quarter—March, June, October and December. This new offering of loose dollar bills will be received for mission support beyond our regular budget. Our March offering is designated for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

community

Update on Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh

In November of 2018, seven courageous women of Central 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). Lynn Peterson, who coordinates LHCB activities in the United States, led Central’s mission team. Over a soup and sandwich lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 20, Lynn and a couple members of Central’s 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. Please sign up at the welcome desk if you plan on attending.

Mother Daughter Sister Friend Breakfast Cancelled for 2020

For the past 19 years, Circle of Friends has been proud to sponsor the Mother Daughter Sister Friend Breakfast. This wonderful event was started to provide fellowship for Central Lutheran Church women and we have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to share this day with you each year. In 2020, Circle of Friends has decided to take a break from hosting the breakfast and will spend time reassessing our programming and commitments. We’d like to thank all of you who have joined us throughout the years, and the speakers who have brought their wisdom and joy to our event, from Former First Ladies of Minnesota to our own CLC member Lee Dean Svitak.

Congregation Council Update

The 2019 Central Congregation Council met on January 28. The meeting was called to order by President Sara Stensaas and began with Christ Care Prayers led by Pastor Peter. After adopting the January agenda and approving the minutes from the December 17, 2019 Congregation Council meeting, the Council spent a majority of the meeting reviewing the financial reports. For informational items, the Council listened to: Kairos/Mission Forward Appeal report; RIC/Living into our Welcome update; and Strategic Planning Process update.

For action items, the Council:

1. Affirmed and accepted the Nominating Committee report and its entire slate, and will forward it to the Annual Meeting on February 9
2. Approved a request for Central to formally join the Envision Community Collaborative as a partner
3. Affirmed and accepted the recommendation of the Fiscal and Property Committee for the 2020 Budget and will forward it to the Annual Meeting on February 9, 2020
4. Approved the recommendations for the associate for worship and music search team: Judy Bogard, Andy Whitford Holey, Laura Holst, Katie Sankey, Dave Sand and Doran Schoeppach
5. Approved the benevolence recommendation for the Mission Forward Appeal: \$20,000 for Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh; \$20,000 for Envision Community; \$10,000 for Tree of Life
6. Approved the recommendation from the Audit Committee to continue using the firm Akins-Henke, for the upcoming audit.

Dave Sand was thanked for his faithful service as a Council member whose term has come to an end. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m., after closing with the Lord’s Prayer.



Sign up at the Welcome Desk

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

- March OWLS Trip
- Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh Luncheon
- Confirmation Worship Notes
- Annual Report
- Purchase Books for Pastor Stephanie’s Wednesday Book Study

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 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.

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.

Prayer and Anointing for Healing This Weekend

Prayer and Anointing for Healing is offered about once a month by the Worship Life and Prayer Ministry teams. No matter your need of healing, for body, mind, spirit, or relationship, you are welcome to stop by the sanctuary prayer corner after worship this weekend.

news and happenings

Great Room Welcome Team Invite

Information Meeting, Sunday, March 1 at 11:45 a.m.

You are invited to consider being a great room “welcomer” to help identify and welcome visitors here at Central Lutheran. The Strategic Planning Team has a work group seeking to provide a more intentional way to connect with and welcome visitors after each worship service. This team invites you to prayerfully consider if you can help with this work. To learn more about this, and to see if this is a fit for you, there will be an information meeting offered on Sunday, March 1, at 11:45 a.m. If you worship at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday or 8:30 a.m. on Sunday and are interested, but cannot attend the meeting, please talk to Pastor Peter after worship and he will connect you with this work. You can also talk to one of the members of this Strategic Plan Team work group: Judith Hedman, Karl Starr or Kathy Fiscus.

OWLS March Trip

Thursday, March 19

This is your chance to be on TV! We'll venture to Fox 9 Studios in Eden Prairie to be part of the LIVE audience for The Jason Show! Come prepared for fun, laughs, and audience participation! After the show, we'll head to Campiello Restaurant for a delicious lunch. Cost is \$15. Sign up at the welcome desk February 15/16, 22/23 and February 29/March 1. 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, Plymouth

We sing because there is so much to sing about, and singing is the deepest way to embody the sacred story we share. We sing hymns of praise, psalms of unity and adoration, laments of sorrow, refrains of joy, and more. Join the National Lutheran Choir for a varied program of music ranging from Felix Mendelssohn's Psalm 100 (Jauchzet dem Herrn) to brand new music by NYC's Kenneth Dake, an arrangement of "Sweet Hour of Prayer." All will be invited to join in the singing of hymns – one of the great treasures of the church. Tickets at nlca.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

5:00 p.m. Worship

5:45 p.m. Saturday Evening Fellowship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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. Empowering Conversations

1:30 p.m. Listening for God

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Building is closed for Presidents' Day

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

9:00 a.m. Emergency Rental Assistance

10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens

10:30 a.m. Seasonal Environment Team

1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Preacher

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir

6:00 p.m. Book Study with Pastor Stephanie

7:15 p.m. Central Choir

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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. Spiritual Practices

11:30 a.m. Circle of Hope/Circle of Friends

12:30 p.m. Emergency Rental Assistance

2:00 p.m. Align Minneapolis ERA Review Team

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Building closed

Because of you...

The Listening for God group meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month and the Spiritual Practices Group meets every 3rd Thursday to use contemplative practices and listen for how God is speaking to each one and to Central. Want to learn more? Contact Pastor Peter.

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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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