



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

the Spirit

FEBRUARY 8/9, 2020



life together

Annual Meetings

Every year we gather for the annual meeting of the congregation. For many years the annual meeting was in June. In the last year we made the shift to a January 1 - December 31 fiscal year, so we now meet in February. Annual meetings are the chance to give thanks to God for all the ministry and mission we are called to as the Central Lutheran faith community. We meet for the important work of approving the budget and electing leadership. We gather to be together, to hear about God at work and to listen for God's call for the future.

Over the past years we have had some big annual meetings where we adopted significant recommendations. Last year we adopted the new welcome statement and officially became a Reconciling in Christ congregation. In 2018 we adopted the Strategic Plan Process framework. At the meeting in 2017, we adopted an updated constitution which also moved the annual meeting to February. In 2016 we adopted the design directive for the Building Renewal Project. In 2015 we adopted the new mission statement and our core expressions of faith, that we engage in ministry and mission through worship, formation, community and generosity.

This year we gather to adopt the budget and elect leadership. We gather to hear about the strategic plan and the beginning of a maintenance and capital replacement fund. There are no major proposals to adopt, which is a good thing from time to time. It means that we have been about good work these past years, accomplishments that give glory to God and continue to open us to God's preferred future for Central Lutheran.

I am looking forward to this meeting and the chance to gather and give thanks.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Peter

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation

February

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 Sexism 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 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

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 9, 12:00 p.m., great room
The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday 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, at the meeting or online.

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.

worship and formation

Guide to Prayer

Listening for God

Jesus continues to teach at the Sea of Galilee this week. When he finishes reminding the crowds that they are blessed in all the complexities of their lives, he also tells them this, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.”

Jesus tells us that we are salt which is a statement about our impact. Salt impacts everything it touches. Consider what salt does to the taste of your food, the ice on the sidewalk, the cut on your lip. At the time Jesus called us salt, salt was a rare and precious. Imagine what it must have meant to Jesus followers—the plain, the broken and the ordinary—to have been called salt. The implications are vast. Salt has the capacity to enhance, heal and sooth and it has qualities that cause harm as well.

Listening to your life

This metaphor has lost a bit of its relevance in our culture today. Salt is plentiful and often overused, but in Jesus’ time, to be called salt meant that you were something remarkable. Has anyone ever called you ‘the salt of the earth?’ What did it mean to you? How did it make you feel about the person who said it? About yourself? What are the ways in which you can be salt for the world?

Downtown Church Choral Festival

Sunday, February 9, 2:00 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church
This 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.

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.”

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.

Saturday Worship

Join us for worship on Saturday, February 15, and afterwards for refreshments when we woo you with our Valentine’s Day menu. There will be some light refreshments and some savory sweets, but it’s mostly about CHOCOLATE!

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.

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). LHCB is sponsored jointly by the Global Mission unit of the ELCA and partnering congregations in Minnesota, including Central Lutheran. 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 as you go through the serving line. 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.



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
- 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 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.

news and happenings

Prayer Shawl Knitters Group

Tuesday, February 11, 1:00 p.m., fireside room
Prayer Shawl knitters will meet at Central this week. Join the group for a time of fellowship and refreshments and help make lovely warm shawls to be given free of charge to anyone needing comfort or healing. Bring your own yarn or some supplies are also available. The knitters meet the second Tuesday of each month. For questions, check with Bobbie Spradley at bobbiespradley@comcast.net.

ACTS Circle

Tuesday, February 11, 6:00 p.m., nativity
ACTS Circle will meet on Tuesday at Central. 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 and beverages will be provided. There is plenty of room at the table; please join us! For questions or to RSVP, please contact Karen Snyder at 952-831-6342 or karen@snyders.info.

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.

Because of you...

Our children's message during worship often includes a takeaway so the kids have something to bring home with them. Why? The takeaway reminds kids to talk about and share what they have learned with families and friends later.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

1:00 p.m. Funeral for Jim Sample
3:00 p.m. 4 Year Old Stepping Stone
5:00 p.m. Worship
5:45 p.m. Saturday Evening Fellowship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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. Congregation Annual Meeting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

9:00 a.m. Emergency Rental Assistance
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. Bible Study

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
5:30 p.m. ACTS Circle
5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee
6:00 p.m. Young Adults Gathering
6:30 p.m. Global Mission Ministry

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

9:00 a.m. Emergency Rental Assistance
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 13

MMEA & ACDA Honor Choir Concerts
8:30 a.m. Street Voices of Change
10:00 a.m. Augsburg Central Health Commons
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
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
2:00 p.m. Align Minneapolis ERA Review Team

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

MMEA & ACDA Honor Choir Concerts

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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