



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

the Spirit

MARCH 7/8, 2020



life together

Central Responds to the Coronavirus

The news is carrying reports of the spread of the coronavirus. Your own level of anxiety about the virus may be dependent on your news source. In the midst of all the various reports, there is cause for concern and care for one another. It is a somewhat familiar place for us here in the upper Midwest because each year we face a variety of flu strains.

The key for us as a faith community is to respond with thoughtful approaches, rather than simply react. At this point the responses we need to consider are grounded in good old common sense. Here are the essentials of our response to the coronavirus:

1. If you feel at all sick, please stay home. The blessing of our livestream is that you can worship online at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday night, or at 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning.
2. If you are immunocompromised, you may also consider staying home and worshipping online as the spread of the coronavirus continues to unfold.
3. If you are simply concerned about being in larger gatherings, another option is to worship on Saturday night. Saturday's 5:00 p.m. service is a contemplative service and offers more room and less people. It also offers a wonderful fellowship opportunity after worship!
4. In worship, we will verbally share the peace. For communion distribution, the bread will be shared by a communion minister that has washed their hands. The wine or juice will be offered for you to take from the tray, rather than by a communion minister handing you the wine or juice.
5. If you have additional concerns, please talk to me or another pastor after worship. There is also good information on the CDC website to help lower anxiety and help our response. Here is the link to the CDC information page: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf

As this all unfolds, there may be other ways we respond to support our life together. I will keep you posted, especially if your help is needed within the ministry we share as God's beloved people.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Peter

Exploring the promise of God for all

Lenten Adult Faith Formation

March

8 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. – Lord's Prayer Petitions 2, 3 and 4

11 – Wednesday

6:00 p.m. – Lord's Prayer Petitions 2, 3 and 4

15 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. – Austen Hartke - Open to the Mystery of God in Gender Diversity

12:00 p.m. – Empowering Conversations: Austen Hartke - Open to the Mystery of God in Gender Diversity (*see page 3*)

18 – Wednesday

6:00 p.m. – Lord's Prayer Petition 5

22 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. – Lord's Prayer Petition 5

25 – Wednesday

6:00 p.m. – Lord's Prayer Petition 6 – 7

29 – Sunday

9:30 a.m. – Lord's Prayer Petition 6 – 7

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.

Wednesdays in Lent

12:00 p.m. - Service of Word and Prayer (Obie Holmen preaching)

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)

5:50 - 6:50 p.m. - Bell Choir Rehearsal

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

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

7:30 p.m. - Central Choir rehearsal

worship and formation

Listening to Your Life Lenten Devotional

You are invited to pick up a Lenten devotional today at the welcome desk. Fellow members of the congregation have written devotional meditations on the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer will be our guide for the season of Lent. There are also devotional resources on the weekends for going deeper with the Lord's Prayer or meditating on the weekend's gospel reading.

The devotionals are also being emailed each morning to all who are on the eNews distribution list. If you are not receiving them, you can sign up for the eNews on our website or email smasters@centralmpls.org. What a blessing to journey together to the cross and Easter Sunday by meditating together on the Lord's Prayer.

Worship at Central during Holy Week and Easter

Passion/Palm Sunday

- April 4 - Holy Communion at 5:00 p.m.
- April 5 - Holy Communion at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.; procession with palms around the building

The Great Three Days

- Maundy Thursday Holy Communion - April 9, 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday Worship - April 10, 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Great Vigil of Easter - April 11, 7:00 p.m. (no 5:00 p.m. service)

Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday, April 12

- First Light Devotions in the Columbarium at 7:30 a.m.
- Holy Communion at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

All services are livestreamed on our website.

Prayer Stations Offered for Lent

You are invited to enter a time of prayer at one of two prayer stations that have been set up for the season of Lent. The prayer stations are open before worship and after worship each weekend. They are also available on Wednesdays after the 12:00 p.m. service or from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening. Please note on Wednesday evening, the bells rehearse from 5:50-6:50 p.m., but quiet prayer is just fine.

There is information for each of the prayer stations to help guide you. At the labyrinth prayer station, please remove your shoes before entering. The prayer around the cross station is in the prayer area at the back of the sanctuary. Blessings as you pray and center on God's love, listening for God's presence that is always with you.

Middle School Week of Service, Learning and fun

June 22-25

In our cadence of experiential learning for students in grades 6-9, this summer is a service learning year for our middle school kids. Pastor Peter and Pastor Jeffrey are excited to lead this great group through a week of learning and fun! On Monday we will serve at the Restoration Center and then head out for some fun. On Tuesday we will work on the new children's natural play area here at church. On Wednesday we will head up for an overnight at Camp Amnicon and do service project work at camp, returning on Thursday.

There will be an information and sign-up meeting at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 8. This trip is designed and intended for all students entering grades 6 through 9. We'll ask for a \$50 deposit to hold your spot and parent volunteers. We're excited to spend the week learning and having fun together!

Listening for God Contemplative Prayer

Basically every second Sunday of the month Pastor Peter leads a contemplative prayer time, gathering us to intentionally listen for God. Each month a different contemplative prayer form is offered. We then enter that prayer time, followed by the chance to share our experience and reflect together.

This Sunday, we will gather in the prayer area in the back of the sanctuary at 12:30 p.m. Pastor Peter will lead the contemplative prayer through the prayer around the cross station that is set up for the season of Lent. The prayer time is open to all, and no previous attendance is needed.

We Have Wounded Our Planet - Now What?

Sunday, March 22, 12:00 p.m., fireside room

Many of us are becoming increasingly concerned about the changed climate and its effects on our planet. How should we be responding to this existential threat, both as individuals and as a community of faith? On Sunday, March 22, Jim Hart will facilitate a discussion of this issue and the possible actions that we might take as a congregation. Please grab your lunch and join us in the fireside room after worship.

community

Empowering Conversations

Sunday, March 15, 12:00 p.m.,

Next Sunday, we will be blessed to have Austen Hartke leading us during adult faith formation in between services and Empowering Conversations at noon. Austen Hartke is the author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*, a book on theology and personal narratives. He is also the creator of the YouTube series "Transgender and Christian," which seeks to understand, interpret, and share parts of the Bible that relate to gender identity and the lives of transgender individuals. Austen is a graduate of Luther Seminary's MA program in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies. He has spoken at conferences all over the country. Austen is a 2019 Bush Foundation Fellow, and is currently researching the use of online ministry as support for gender-expansive Christians. As a transgender person of faith, Austen's greatest passion is helping other trans and gender-non-conforming people see themselves in scripture. He will help open us up to the mystery of God as we experience a humanity made in the image of God with a beautiful diversity of genders and gender expressions.

Homeless Day on the Hill

Wednesday, March 11

Heading Home Central and Align Mpls will be sponsoring a bus from Central to the State Capitol for this important advocacy event to secure funding for affordable housing and tenant rights. Sign up at the welcome desk. The bus will board at 7:30 a.m. at Central for this important time to meet with your legislators.

Congregation Council Update

The 2020 Central Congregation Council met on February 25. The meeting was called to order by newly elected President Lisa Beane and began with Christ Care Prayers led by Pastor Peter. Pastor Peter also welcomed newly elected Vice President Rod Richter, and Felecia Boone, Minneapolis Area Synod vice president, who shared a greeting and offered a thank you for Central's increase in mission support for 2020. After adopting the February agenda and approving the minutes from the January 28 Congregation Council meeting, the Council also reviewed the minutes from the 2020 annual meeting on February 9 and agreed to forward them to the 2021 annual meeting. The Council also received the financial reports ending January 31, 2020 and the life passages for January 2020.

For informational items, the Council listened to:

- Valet parking request follow up
- RIC/Living into our Welcome update
- Strategic Planning Process update

The remainder of the meeting was used as an orientation/refresher time for new and continuing council members. There were no action items. 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
- Confirmation Worship Notes
- Homeless Day on the Hill Bus
- Annual Reports
- Lenten Devotionals
- ELCA World Hunger Jar Wrappers
- Parking Lot Access Cards
- Lord's Prayer Study

eSpirit

Stay up-to-date on the weekend happenings ahead of the weekend 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.

Parking Lot Access Cards

All members of the Central family may obtain a parking lot access card. Stop by the welcome desk to inquire about getting a card. Or pick up your card if you asked for one in the past.

news and happenings

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, March 10, 1:00 p.m., fireside room

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 available. The knitters meet the second Tuesday or each month. For questions check with Bobbie Spradley at bobbiespradley@comcast.net

ACTS Circle

Tuesday, March 10, 6:00 p.m. nativity.

ACTS Circle will meet March 10 at Central. All women who are interested in Christian fellowship and fun are invited to join the women of ACTS Circle. We will use the March *Gather* magazine as our basis for conversation (topic happily provided by host). A light meal and beverage will be provided. There is plenty of room at the table; please join us! For questions or to RSVP, contact Karen Snyder at 952-831-6342 or karen@snyders.info.

A Different Kind of Book Club

Thursday, March 12, 1:30 p.m., nativity

This month, we are reading "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson. Discussion leader is Dick Shinofield. Any questions may be directed to Bonnie Palmquist at bonnieskier@yahoo.com or 612-822-4348.

Life Passages for February

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

Christopher Barnes and Melanie Rake were married at Central on Saturday, February 1.

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

James (Jim) A. Sample was born on April 20, 1940 and died January 29, 2020. His funeral was held at Central on Saturday, February 8.

Because of you...

Last weekend's "Caring Ones" offering of \$1 bills, brought in \$376. This March offering is designated for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thank you to everyone who brought their \$1 bills in. Our next "Caring Ones" offering will be the first weekend in June.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

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. Choristers' Rehearsal
11:45 a.m. Search Committee
11:45 a.m. Middle School Trip Meeting
12:30 p.m. Listening for God

MONDAY, MARCH 9

9:00 a.m. Emergency Rental Assistance
9:00 a.m. Street Voices of Change Leadership
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
12:00 p.m. Street Song Rehearsal

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. ACTS Circle

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

7:30 a.m. Homeless Day on the Hill Bus
9:00 a.m. Emergency Rental Assistance
9:00 a.m. Quilting for LWR
10:00 a.m. Free Store Opens
12:00 p.m. Lenten Worship
12:30 p.m. Soup/Salad Luncheon
1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Preacher
5:50 p.m. Bell Choir
6:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
7:00 p.m. Lenten Evening Prayer
7:30 p.m. Central Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

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
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, MARCH 13

Building closed

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Members of :

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | www.elca.org
Align Minneapolis | www.alignmpls.org ReconcilingWorks | www.reconcilingworks.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.