



Central Lutheran  
MINNEAPOLIS

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

August 13, 2020

We continue in this pandemic marathon. It is hard to believe that we have not gathered for in-person worship since the weekend of March 7/8. Thankfully we have many water stops to sustain us along the way: weekly online and Facebook Live worship, daily email devotionals, Daily Prayer and Holy Communion service options, Zoom Bible study offerings, the shared work of the Restoration Center, and a weekly video greeting, to name a few.

I write to thank you for your faithfulness and continued commitment to the ministry and mission of Central Lutheran. Your faithfulness, lived in all the moments of your daily life, is inspiring. Your commitment to our shared life together is truly a blessing.

Thank you for your generosity. Your financial gifts are a remarkable response to God's generosity at work in your life. Enclosed with this letter you will find your statement of contributions for the first seven months of the year. If you have questions about your statement please contact Obie Holmen, our wonderful director of finance, at [rholmen@centralmpls.org](mailto:rholmen@centralmpls.org). You can also call his office line directly at 612-767-9220.

The Congregation Council has evaluated the current Covid-19 situation and affirms that we continue suspending in-person worship. The next assessment date for a return to in-person worship will be by November 1. The CDC, Dr. Mike Osterholm, many public-school districts and other indicators advise that it is not safe to gather for in-person worship. The Council has a working document that guides these decisions and supports how we are expanding ministry in creative ways. As we look to the fall, there are new plans for our life together in these uncertain times.

- In September, the next step in creative offerings for online worship at 5:00 p.m., 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. will begin. At the center of worship and our life together, there will be an engagement with key moments in the Bible. We will center worship and Bible study on a narrative lectionary. Together, each week, we will engage in the story of God's love from Genesis to Revelation. The Daily Prayer and Holy Communion offerings will continue, with additional offerings planned for the weekend or weeknights.
- With the technical help of our new associate for worship and music, Isaac Drewes, we'll explore virtual (audio) choral possibilities that will enable us to include offerings by the Central Choir in some of our worship services.

- Sunday school will resume in some online format. Confirmation and high school youth will gather online in new and creative ways. Adult faith formation will continue Wednesday evenings as it has for the summer. Additional adult study and small groups will be offered as we begin to deeply engage the question of racial justice. The Empowering Conversations will return in a Zoom format on the third Sunday of each month, with the opportunity for affinity groups to grow and learn together.
- The ministry of the Restoration Center continues in the creative framework.
- Committees and ministry teams are meeting via Zoom and making plans for program invitations and opportunities. The work in the facility continues, with the contractors preparing to be on site for the renewal of the lower narthex.
- Relationship connections will be cared for, with planning so that we can safely host funerals at Central and offer fellowship gatherings, like the summer's wonderful carillon and food truck events.

The marathon runners in the congregation, like George, Kathryn and Sam, all know that water stops are essential. The "water stops" we have in place as we run this Covid-19 marathon together are also essential. Plan to be in worship each weekend, join the Bible study, sign up for the Daily Prayer with Communion, and respond to other invitations to deepen your faith and sustain you along the way.

At any point along this challenging adventure, when you feel that anxiety or struggle catching up to you, please call or email any of the pastors, deacon or staff. We are here to pray with you, listen, walk with you and remind you of God's unconditional love.

It is a privilege to serve as one of your rostered leaders. Thank you for all the ways we share this life together, on the good days and in the great challenges. God is faithful and will sustain, guide and lead us.

Yours in Jesus Christ our Lord,

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe