

# THE SENTINEL May 2020

Central Lutheran Church | 1000 Easton Rd. | Dallas, TX 75218 | [www.centrallutheran.org](http://www.centrallutheran.org)  
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***God calls us to proclaim the Gospel and demonstrate Christ's love for all.***



May 1st



May 7th



May 12th



May 16th



May 25th



*<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.*

*2 Corinthians 4:7-10*

It doesn't feel like we can get more empty, does it? The grocery store shelves are disturbingly bare, or so it seems. I can't say for sure, as I haven't stepped foot into a store since the beginning of this escapade. I give tremendous thanks for curbside pickup services, which allow workers to remain safe and as free as possible from my potential contamination. Unfortunately, my grocery orders seem to fall a little shorter and shorter as the weeks go on. Necessities like milk or eggs have gone unfilled for a few consecutive orders, leaving me with an empty and hopeless feeling. The 25-count package of rainbow party napkins they substituted for our usual 400-count plain white generic pack didn't last terribly long and would have given you the illusion that we're having a celebration. But then again, maybe we are. In this time of emptiness, I've learned to reshape my thinking around gratitude and innovation with the resourcefulness of generations past. I've learned to celebrate the Depression-era hoopla over powdered milk, and now I can enjoy lattes and make au gratin potatoes again! We broke into our "good napkin" stash – the pretty fabric ones we pull out only at Christmas time – and are re-using them. So maybe the celebration is around what God's up to in the midst of my perceived emptiness. Maybe my emptiness has been needed in order to let God reshape me as God's clay jar.

But I also feel empty as we are still worshipping at a physical distance. We will continue to do so until it is safe to gather again. I can't wait to get back to see y'all together, but it will likely be a while until we can get back into the full swing of things. Our governor recently gave the green-light to begin limited social gathering. However, we are going to follow the gift of science and keep in step with our bishops and federal recommendations. The White House recommends phasing in group gatherings after 14-days of declining new cases – Dallas County has certainly not reached that yet. I reaffirm my commitment to keeping you protected and healthy. Once our area reaches that safe period, we will begin phasing in our in-person worship. What it looks like whenever we return, we don't know. We will reevaluate everything we do, including communion, passing the peace and offering plates, as well as our seating positions. What I do know is that we are being reshaped, like it or not. God is our potter who will continue to provide for us in ways that we might not yet understand but we can certainly celebrate.

And these celebrations have already begun. I rejoiced when I heard our own Marlys Wing open Bible Study with a prayer of gratitude for the Zoom technology we use to gather and hear God speak with us. I celebrate how our Hooked On Love ministry gathers online to talk and show their progress in joining stitches for blankets that will be given to people who are already lonely and aching. I am grateful to know you are joining services online.

*Lord, let us continue to see ourselves as your beloved clay, shaped by your hands and great love for us. Let us celebrate in knowing that where we are perplexed and empty and impatient, we may see your ever present and redeeming, renewing work reshaping us with hearts of gratitude and awareness. Amen.*

Resurrection Blessings,  
+Rev. Kristina M. Truhan



Amy Kjorlien-Lewis	05/01	David Swenson	05/05
Don Smith	05/07	Chrissy Townsley	05/09
Robert Schwenn	05/16	Gretchen Thigpen	05/17
Brady Pierce	05/18	Samantha Krause	05/19
Mike Oxley	05/21	Bob Jutton	05/22
Clay Penland	05/23	Benjamin Wrobbel	05/25
Robert Brown	05/31		



Paul & Ruth Chambers	05/06	03 years
Ed & Kjesten Fiducia	05/11	18 years
David & Alesia Pearson	05/12	30 years
Kent & Lindsey Mendenhall	05/15	16 years
Bert & Jennifer Hart	05/18	35 Years
Ken & Starleen Frye	05/21	26 years
Scott & Monica Hauser	05/28	20 years
Roy & Erin Evans	05/31	17 years

### Church Council

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## Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

During these uncertain times, Central Lutheran Church is continuing its ministry with a significant online presence. The services are enlightening and allow us to share in our worship at home using our phones and computers.

It is important that we not lose focus on doing what's necessary to preserve our cherished local businesses and charities in this time of need. And, we also need to remember to "take care" of our spiritual home, so its economic foundation is as strong as it can be until we, once again, are able to greet each other in person. To accomplish this, many have relied upon the "My Offering" envelopes or sending checks through the mail. Some even use the electronic bill pay service offered by banks and credit unions. But this challenging time has presented an interesting opportunity to "go digital" by switching to electronic money transfers using apps on your computer or smart phone. The CLC Council is looking into several ways of tithing online, and I've found Givelify to be the easiest to use. The app is available right now to download to your smart phone.

When you open the app, do a search for Central Lutheran Church in Dallas, keeping in mind there is more than one Central Lutheran Church in the United States. It wasn't difficult for me to spot our church by its address on 1000 Easton Road. Keep in mind that once you find "our" Central Lutheran Church the first time, the app will remember your selection in the future.

The second step in the process is to provide your financial information, either your bank account info or a debit or credit card. Then, you enter the amount of your donation and click to submit.

Perhaps the best feature is that you can set up automatic weekly donations. They happen at the same time each week at the amount you set. The automatic donations are "optional." You can make one-time donations to CLC anytime you like.

I have written checks to the church my entire life. In March, 2020, that changed. And, I don't think I'm going back to writing checks when all of this is over. But, if you aren't comfortable with using a smart phone-based app, you can still write checks and mail them to the church (1000 Easton Rd, Dallas, 75218) or continue to use your bank's "Bill Pay" feature.

Ruth and I pray every night that God protect each and every member of the CLC community as we deal with this pandemic.

Please call me with any questions (214-966-4876) . I'll be happy to help you navigate. And, most of all, BE SAFE!

- Paul Chambers  
CLC Stewardship Chair



### Central Lutheran Church

1000 Easton Road, Dallas, TX 75218

**Sunday School**                    **9:00 a.m.**

**Worship Service**                **10:30 a.m.**

**Communion Every Sunday**

Rev. Kristina Truhan, Pastor

Music Director: Harold Knight

Youth Director: Jennifer Nixon

Office Administrator: David LeVasseur

# Maundy Thursday



Central Lutheran Church  
Dallas, Tx

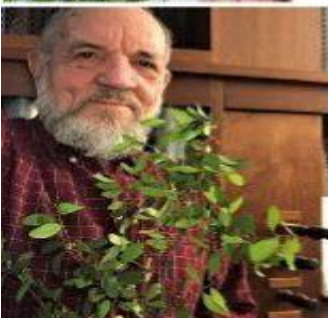


Palm Sunday "Parade"  
Several members shared pictures with their palms!

## Palm Sunday "parade"

All glory, laud, and honor  
To you, redeemer, king,  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring.

Their praises you accepted;  
Accept the prayers we bring,  
Great author of all goodness,  
O good and gracious King.



## A prayer for Mother's Day

Lord, we remember the mothers  
who have gone before us.

**For their love, sacrifice, struggle  
and joy, we thank you.**

Lord, we remember the mothers of  
Scripture who are a part of our story  
as we are a part of your story.

**For their courage, faith, love and  
fierceness, we thank you.**

Lord, we remember those who have not  
given birth to us, but are mothers to us.

**For their gift of themselves that they  
have given, we thank you.**

For the women who struggle with  
fertility, for those women whom  
society labels as less in their childlessness,  
for those women who have lost children.

**For their tears, for their strength,  
for their wisdom, for their lives,  
we thank you.**

In your name we pray. Amen.

by Claire Schoepp



Behind every  
**MOM**  
is a basket  
of dirty  
laundry.

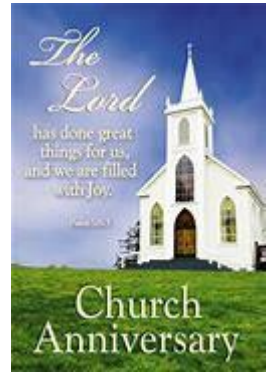


*Happy Mother's Day*

*She opens her mouth in wisdom,  
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*

*Prov. 31:26*





## Calling all artists!

We need a LOGO!

As we prepare for our 100-year anniversary, we need a new logo! ALL are invited to make a little doodle or two and put together an idea for our “Century at Central” anniversary logo! Our reunion committee will collect logo suggestions through the end of May and narrow it down to 2 or 3 for the congregation to vote on in June. If you have a general vision or idea but doubt your drawing skills, contact Colby Jones and he will help your vision become a reality!

Tips: This should be a simple design, black & white

Not too many small details: think something that is legible on a car bumper sticker or shrunk-en down to paper letterhead size; possible logo on a t-shirt

It should include somewhere Central Lutheran Church and Dallas, Tx

Samples/ideas can be mailed in to the church office: 1000 Easton Rd, 75218, or you can email them to Alesia Pearson (alesia-r-pearson@swbell.net) or Colby Jones (dallasrec@sbcglobal.net). Good luck! We look forward to seeing your ideas!

## VBS 2020



We are still planning for Vacation Bible School the week of July 13-17! We can always use volunteers 8:30am-12:30pm to help shepherd kids through their group activities. If you would like to help a day or all week, contact Alesia Pearson (alesia-r-pearson@swbell.net); we have a variety of volunteer options for you! VBS is available for ANY kids ages 3 years old (as of January 1<sup>st</sup>) through entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This is a free program for our kids and community – come join the fun!



Many have already joined us on Facebook for live Sunday morning worship. We invite and encourage you to join in worship together! We will include a link to a bulletin so you can follow the service. We also have extra LBW hymnals at the church that we can bring to you so you can better follow along and have the hymns. Please contact Pastor Truhan or the church office if you'd like a book!

One added bonus with the Facebook live worship – you will be able to see who else is worshipping with you! It really adds to the sense of congregation and community! Share the information with friends and neighbors and share the post announcing the service on Facebook to help us share with others. If you miss the live service, the service remains on our Facebook page as a video. Just click on the picture and you'll see the lines/arrows at the bottom of the picture to play the video (click on the arrow).

## **CentalLutheran.org**

Did you know we have a website? You can find current and upcoming information on our website. Right now, Pastor's Voice, in the top bar of the page is where you can click and see the bulletin/program to follow for the live services. (There will also be a link on the Facebook page to be able to go there straight from Facebook. It will open in another tab and you will be able to go back & forth if you'd like. Once you start the live or recorded service, you'll be able to hear everything happening even if you clicked over to the church site for the bulletin) Boxes at the bottom of the front page have information for upcoming events/activities and the "News" button on the right end of that top bar has the most current updates for various information for you, too. Some of it could use a little updating but the current events/activities are there!

## **Are you new to Facebook?**

For those of you who may not have used Facebook before, here are a few pointers:

Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). When it opens on the site, it will have the form right there to create a new account. Just follow the instructions – you'll need to enter either your email or cell phone number and create a password. It asks for your birthday, they do want to make sure you're over 18, and if you want, you'll have the opportunity to indicate if you want to hide the year from others... 49 again?? When you have set up your account, you can search for other people you know and you can search for the church's page. There are other "Central Lutherans" out there so search for "Central Lutheran Dallas". You'll get a page with options that match your search. Just click on our name/picture and it will take you there.

When you are on our church page, there's a list of words in the left column like: about, reviews, photos, etc. Go down that column and click on "posts". That takes you to our page and the most recent pictures and information we've been sharing. That is where you will be able to watch when we have the Facebook live videos for worship times.

At the top of our page, under the picture that shows our Sunday School and Worship times, is a rectangle that says "Like". If you click on that to "like" our page, when we post new things they will show up on your main page, too, and you won't have to go looking for information.



**BACKGROUND:** Someday soon public health restrictions will be eased. As of this writing we do not know exactly when it will happen, but it will. We suggest that now is the time to begin to plan for ministry in a post COVID 19 reality. The intent of this document is to stimulate your thinking.

**ASSUMPTIONS:** We will leave the current “stay at home” world much as we entered it.

- At first there will be restrictions on the size of gatherings and on long-distance travel.
- There will be periodic emergence of “hot spots” where new infections, hospitalizations and deaths will suddenly increase after a period of decrease. This will require the return of restrictions. This is the “whack-a-mole” scenario that is the best-case outcome of the current restrictions.

- Even as things open up many people will be reluctant to begin to emerge in public gathering.

Other people will be very eager to return to past behaviors without reflection.

- It is possible that public authorities will give conflicting, perhaps partisan, guidance.

Planning for the future that will come: We suggest that pastors and lay leaders begin now to do scenario planning together. As you do we encourage you to take seriously your responsibility to follow public health guidance, particularly that of state and county officials. Conditions will vary from place to place. No one wants their congregation’s event to be the site where a new outbreak begins.

- How would you successfully and faithfully gather for worship and share the Lord’s Supper in a series of small groups, based on the restrictions as they develop?

- How will you continue to minister to people who are reluctant to gather for some time?

- There is likely to be pent up grief and a sense of loss. It is likely that funeral practices will be restricted for some time. Medical professionals, EMTs, and other first responders will be exhausted. How can your congregation help the whole community deal constructively with grief?

- Pastors and other church staff will also have spent the period of restrictions being caught in the middle of the anxiety and pressure of conflicting expectations and fears. Consider offering your staff time and space to come down.

- When will faith formation activities and programs - VBS, Sunday & Wednesday School, youth activities - resume and with what adaptations?

- What practices and experiments did you develop that you want to retain and carry into the future?

**A FINAL WORD:** This is not the first time that the Church has faced disruption. It is not the first time that leaders have had to deal with realities they did not sign up for. Then and now the church is called to cling to the promise of new life in a world after Easter. In Christ, God makes all things new. Our call is to trust that God is constantly creating, redeeming, and inspiring us as we are, where we are.

# Companions in Christ



The global church is a reality, not just an abstract concept, for the thousands of Lutherans engaged in ELCA companion-synod relationships.

"Companion synods nurture a church that is global, not only the parochial enclave of being together," said Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of ELCA Global Mission.

Sixty-four ELCA synods have at least one

global-church companion. Because many synods relate to multiple companion churches, more than 120 companion-synod relationships exist. Most participating churches, including the ELCA, are members of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

*Mission Support funding enhances the ministry of the LWF and the companion-synod program.*

For Martin Malley of Ralston, Neb., participating in the Nebraska Synod's relationship with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania "enlarges my worldview and lets me see outside my box."

Visiting Tanzania during a synod trip was Malley's first peek beyond his "box." "By the end of the weekend, I was so taken with the people and the beauty of the place that I was on fire!" he said.

Now Malley serves as the synod's volunteer coordinator of Tanzania ministries, weaving myriad Nebraska-Tanzania connections into the fabric of the synod and diocese. Scores, if not hundreds, of Lutherans have traveled between Nebraska and

Tanzania and built long-standing personal relationships over time, said Brian Maas, bishop of the Nebraska Synod.

Nebraskans and Tanzanians swap pulpits, visit each other's schools and congregations, and keep in touch via Facebook. Nebraskans have donated generously to the Northern Diocese, funding scholarships, purchasing textbooks, equipping evangelists with motorcycles and more. But "this is not about us doing projects," Malley said. "It's about us having Christian friends on the other side of the world."

In companion-synod relationships, care and support flow both ways. Visitors from the Nkuu Kati Lutheran parish took note when Malley and other members of Messiah Lutheran in Ralston showed how they were retrofitting the church's bathrooms to accommodate people of all abilities. "Three months later [Nkuu Kati] sent a check for \$300 to support our project," Malley said. "We knew then that this was a partnership."



"This is not about us doing projects," said ELCA member Martin Malley of the ELCA Nebraska Synod's relationship with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. "It's about us having Christian friends on the other side of the world." Your Mission Support gifts enhance the ELCA companion-synod program.



*“Let us move forward with strong and active faith.”- Franklin D. Roosevelt*

By now, some in your family may have developed a mild case of ‘cabin fever,’ that desire to “get out” and return to normal. I sure have. ☹️ While we are adapting and looking forward to returning to the new ‘normal’ (*whatever that may mean*), *it is more important than ever to remember and take care of our neighbors and our church so that both are doing well when we emerge into that new ‘normal.’ We started out this extended ‘staycation’ by calling on our Central family to see how they are doing and whether they needed anything. We’ve learned that all long for human contact or simply hearing from their friends. We’ve heard some ideas for coping during extended periods at home. We learned that some were fortunate enough to have family visiting when this all started and they’ve been blessed with extended visits. And yes, we’ve learned how to ‘zoom,’ google conference, use the BlueJeans app and conduct video ‘happy hours’ with family, friends and business associates.*

More and more of you are joining our Sunday morning services streamed live on Facebook every Sunday morning @ 10:30 a.m. Pastor Truhan brings us together for the readings, the gospel, the message, and our weekly reminder to pray for CLC members and their loved ones (*and even communion!*). *This past week we even got to hear from the Bishop. Tune in next Sunday at <https://www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas/> to “join us” in our service, and be sure to love and share the page. Consider hosting a ‘watch party’ with your friends in and out of Central, because these unusual times have shown us that many people are looking for a new church home. Can you think of a better home than Central Lutheran Church? Invite them to join us: first on our Sunday morning live-streamed services, and once we are able to actually see and greet one another with long-overdue hugs, peace-signs and handshakes we’ll make them truly understand what a special church home we have.*

We have also been blessed with the efforts of many to ‘hold down the fort’ and keep our church afloat: collecting the donations, paying the bills, applying for a hopeful grant to ease the financial strain in this unusual time, etc. But if you go looking – and hopefully you are joining us – our Central family is continuing with things like Lydia Circle, Hooked on Love, and reaching out to members in the time of need. You can still talk to Pastor (and I bet her response time is phenomenal, too!). As you have seen – and hopefully tried – the additional, updated ways to make it easier for our members to financially support Central in this admittedly strange and trying time.

We do this – as FDR said – to keep moving forward with a strong and active faith. *Let these not be mere words in these unusual times, but rather let it be a suggestion of how we should act: the council and Pastor frequently reviews recommendations and guidelines intended to guide when we can safely come back together as a congregation and for worship services. As each of us should know, one size will never fit all: we continue to do our best to protect our potentially-at-risk members, while focusing on the positives that bring us together and make us who we are, and share our gifts with our church, our friends, and those who need a church, too.*

Phillip Cannatti