



## **Central Lutheran Church**

**Ash Wednesday  
February 14, 2024**

**The Rev. Veronika Czutor, Pastor  
Harold Knight, PhD, Music Director  
Rachel Brown, Administrative Assistant**

# Central Lutheran Church, ELCA

1000 Easton Rd., Dallas, Texas

**God calls us to proclaim the Gospel and demonstrate Christ's love for all.**

*Please turn off your cell phone.*

*This service is being livestreamed to our neighbors near and far on Facebook.*

*Most of the sanctuary- including all leaders and worshippers- is on camera.*

**BELL PEAL (6:00 pm)**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*The assembly stands.*

**GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all as we begin this journey of Lent together.

**C And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**FIRST LESSON: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near— <sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD,

your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. <sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

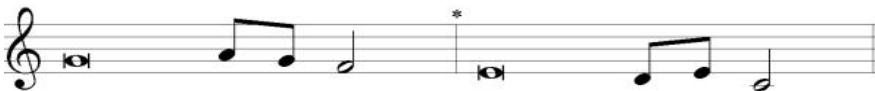
<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

### PSALM 51:1-17

*Sung responsively.*



<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother’s womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- <sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**
- <sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.
- <sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**
- <sup>15</sup>O Lord, o- | pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.
- <sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.  
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**
- <sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

## **SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

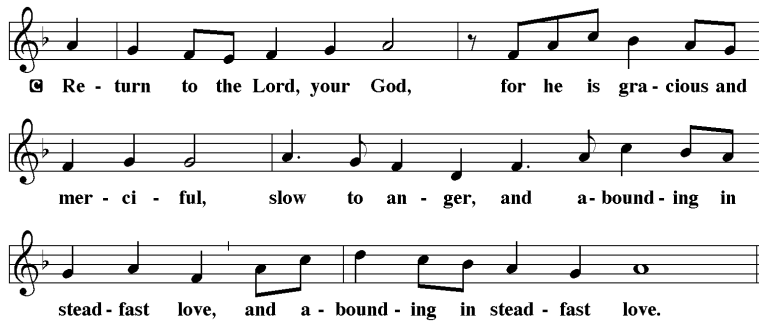
<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord

## READING OF THE GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you O Christ

## SERMON

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

Pastor Veronika

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 605

### Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart  
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:  
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
how tri - fling oth - ers’ debts to us; how great our debt to you!  
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

## INVITATION TO LENT

*The assembly is seated.*

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus’ passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God’s mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent— self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love— strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most holy and merciful God,

**C we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. C Have mercy on us, O God.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*The ashes used for this service were made in the customary manner by burning the palm fronds from last year's Palm Sunday celebration.*

**C Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Those who desire to receive ashes should come forward at this time*

**P Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**

*Silence is kept. After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the pastor continues.*

**P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,**

**C that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

**P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,**

**C bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

**P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.**

**C Amen.**

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in on God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in on Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;**



**he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his  
kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to  
come.**

**Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people  
according to their needs.

*Please sit or kneel for prayer.*

*The response to each spoken petition is:*

P Hear us, O God

**C Your mercy is great.**

People with prayer needs: **Lydia** Landfair, **Selena** Dybdahl, **Paul** Chambers, **Linda**  
Gourley, and **Ylva** Wolfgang.

*The prayers conclude:*

P ...through your son Jesus Christ, our Lord

**C Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

*The peace we share is a sign of God's mission of reconciliation among us and the reconciliation we have with  
one another in Christ Jesus. Please offer a symbol of reconciliation to one another.*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## THE OFFERING

*We give thanks for what God has first given us. Our ministry to the people of East Dallas is supported by your offering. An offering plate is available in the narthex after worship. You may also use our online giving through **Vanco, PayPal, or Givelify** (available in the App Store) or continue to mail your offerings to our office.*

## MUSICAL OFFERING:

**ELW 471**

*Sung by the congregation*

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

- 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain*

- 3 Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

**C Amen**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts **C We lift them to the Lord.**

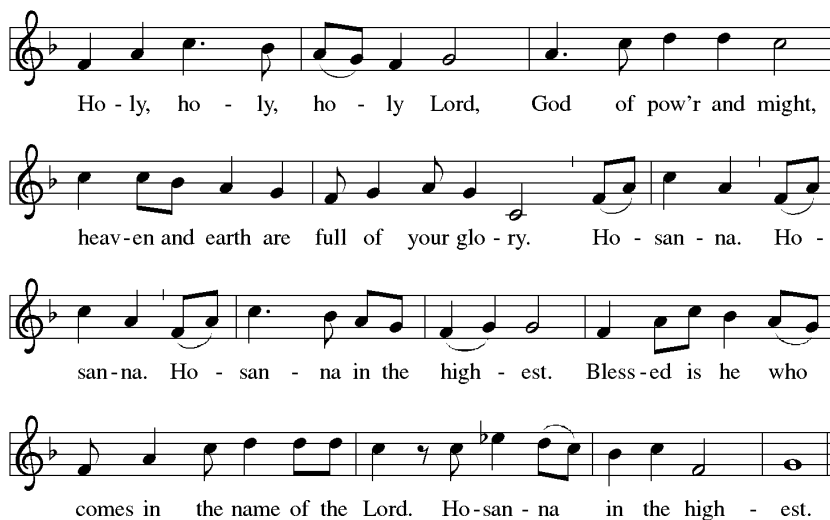
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age....

...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!  
**C** Thanks be to God

## COMMUNION

*Communion will be served at the altar rail, and you have the option to kneel or stand. The consecrated host will be immersed in the chalice and then placed in your hand. If your preference is to receive only the host, please communicate that to the ministers. We have gluten-free options available. Alternatively, if you'd prefer a blessing, simply fold your arms in front of your chest. Currently, there is no consecrated grape juice available.*

The body of Christ, given for you The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD

*Follow the guidance of the ushers if you decide to walk up to the Altar to receive the Sacraments.*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*Meditative organ music is played as the congregation receives the Holy Communion.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous God,

**C at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen**

## BLESSING

P Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

**C Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 601

### Savior, When in Dust to You



1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;  
2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,  
3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,  
4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,



when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;  
by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,  
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-turing scorn,  
by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,  
by the dread, mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,  
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,  
oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,



bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
turn, oh, turn a fa-v'ring eye; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
lis-ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C: Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

### Acknowledgments:

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Gathering Hymn: *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, Kentucky Harmony, 1826

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Hymn of the Day: *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

Text: Rosamund E. Herklots, 1905-1987, alt.

Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press 1969

Musical Offering: *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

Sending Hymn: *Savior, When in Dust to You*

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.

Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841-1903

<h2>Central Lutheran Church</h2>	
	
<h3>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</h3>	
<p><b>Pastor:</b> The Rev. Veronika Czutor 972-904-0245   reverend.veronika@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Music Director:</b> Harold Knight, PhD harchiek74@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Administrative Assistant:</b> Rachel Brown 214-327-2222   central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com</p>	<p>1000 Easton Rd. Dallas, TX 75218</p> <p><a href="http://www.CentralLutheran.org">www.CentralLutheran.org</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas">www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas</a></p>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Visitors, we are glad to have you with us and invite you to come again!**

**Pastor Veronika's Office Hours:** Tuesday – Friday 10 am - 2 pm; other days/times by appointment

**Serving in Worship today:** Ushers: Mary Glenn & Sar Jutton Lector: Lisa Barse

**A Message About Lent:** The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together with the whole church. Lent is a time for deepening our connections with the communities that surround us. Reading the Scriptures invites you all to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God.

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** The annual congregational meeting is **this Sunday, right after the worship service.** This is a crucial gathering where we come together as a community to hear the 2023 reports from our dedicated council leaders and to vote for our new council members and the budget for 2024. After the meeting, let's continue the fellowship with our much-anticipated annual **Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Bake-Off!** Voting will be done by placing cash in the envelope of the cook who you think made the best Chili and Dessert. Winners will be determined by who gets the most cash. All proceeds will benefit the Church.

**Midweek Lenten Worship & Supper:** We will joyfully join together with our siblings at Emmanuel Lutheran for our midweek Lenten worship at Central. **We will meet at 6:00 pm for a supper of soup and sandwiches. Then at 7:00 pm we will worship using *Holden Evening Prayer*. We will meet every Wednesday until March 20.** Pastor Veronika will turn our focus to the Psalms- a source of depth and wonder used in worship for over 3,000 years. All are welcome!

**Volunteers Needed** to help with New Horizons After School Reading and Tutoring program at Central. Duties will include helping with homework and reading stories to children ages 5 to 11. You will be security screened prior to beginning. The schedule is 3-6 pm Monday through Thursday. You can do one day a week or one day a month. The kids are adorable. The staff is great. You will receive far more than you give! If you are interested, contact Anne Monson at 214-264-8078 or [annemonson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annemonson@sbcglobal.net).



Scan this QR code (or go to [linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch](http://linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch)) to connect with us, join our mailing list, or donate online.

**Our Prayer List:** Please submit your prayer requests to the church office via email ([central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com](mailto:central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com)) or via phone (214-327-2222).

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING & COMFORT**

**For healing**

Irisz Gonda  
 Frank Seuberling  
 Linda Gourley  
 Sara Navarro Ruiz  
 Erik Rojas Cobo  
 Karen Sabattis  
 Selena Dybdahl

**Relationship**

Friend of Pastor Veronika  
 Friend of Harold Knight  
 Sister of Julie Atkins  
 Friend of Victor Chacon  
 Friend of Victor Chacon  
 Sister of Janet Rashbaum  
 Sister of Mary Glenn

**Church Members**

Lydia Landfair  
 Don Smith  
 Mario Montejo  
 Ylva Wolfgang

Kris McDowell  
 Yuvonne Muirhead  
 Paul Chambers