

# Central Lutheran Church

Second Sunday in Lent  
February 25, 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 (10:30 am)**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

**C Amen.**

P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Holy God,

**C we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

P Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

## Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
 so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
 so we are dead and live with you in God.  
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

## GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of 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.**

## FIRST LESSON: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

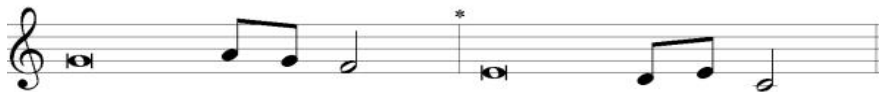
<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## PSALM 22:23-31

*Sung responsively.*



<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s | line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hid- | den from them; but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

- <sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**
- <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.
- <sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,  
who rules o- | ver the nations.**
- <sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore  
the LORD.
- <sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**
- <sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people | yet unborn,  
saying to them, “The | LORD has acted!”

## **SECOND LESSON: Romans 4:13-25**

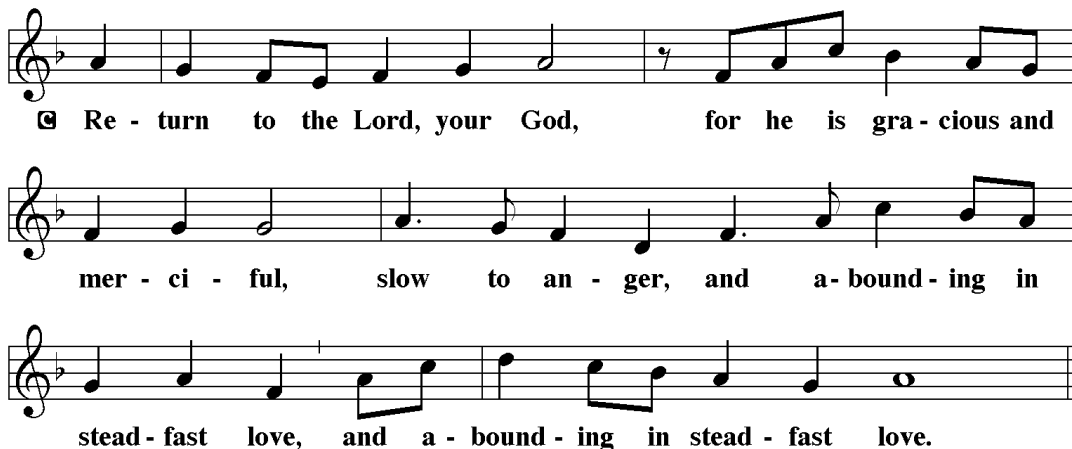
<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 Mark, the eighth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord

## READING OF THE GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you O Christ

## SERMON

Pastor Veronika

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
 love up - on my way, from the cross the  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
 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, **Karen** Sabattis, 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: Lord, Sanctify Me wholly

*Sung by the choir*

*Lord, sanctify me wholly, that my whole spirit, soul, and body may become Thy temple, may become Thy temple.*

*O do Thou dwell in me, in me, and be Thou my God, and I will be Thy servant.  
Lord, sanctify me wholly, that my whole spirit, soul, and body may become Thy temple, may become Thy temple.*

*Lord, sanctify me wholly.*



## 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.**

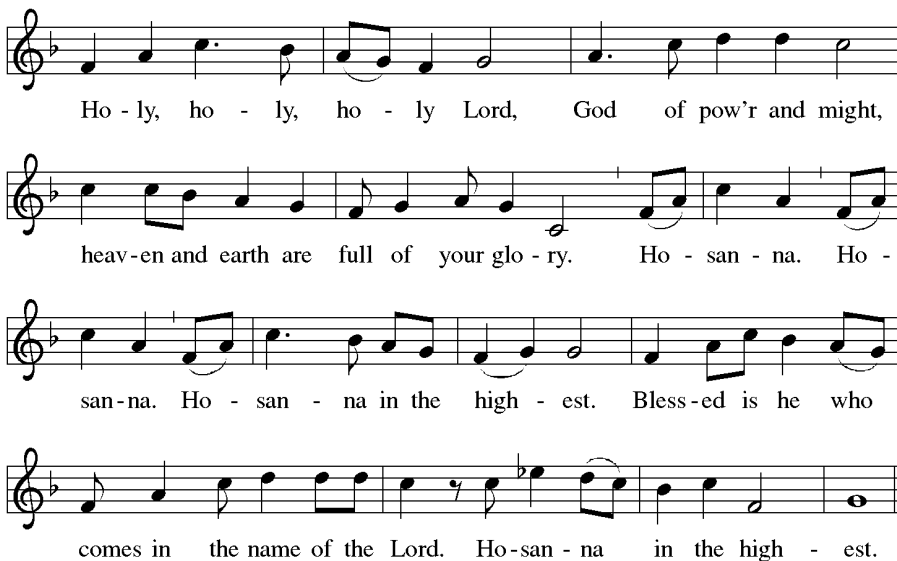
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

P It is indeed our duty and our joy . . . (*prayer concludes*) 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.... (*prayer continues*)

...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.**

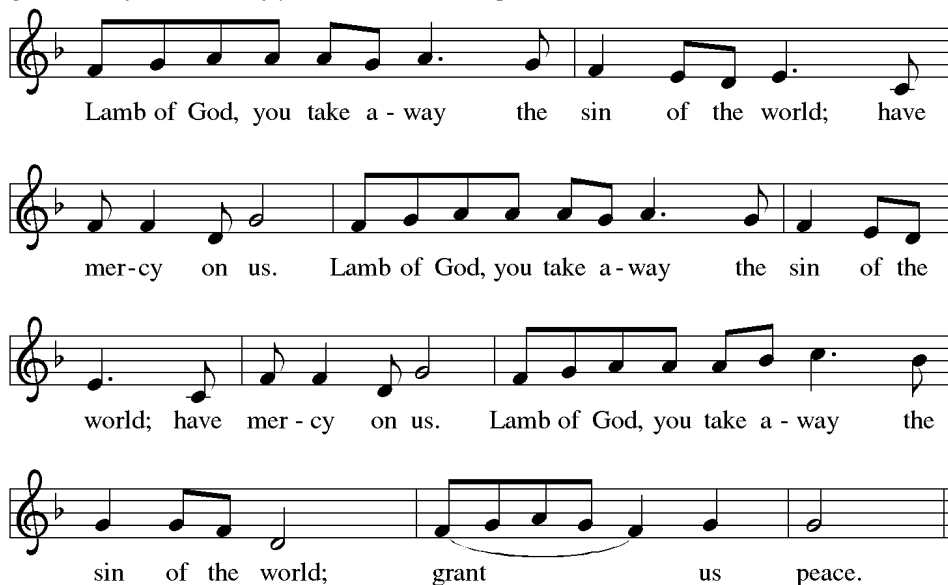
## **COMMUNION**

*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 Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.  
**C 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.**

## Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.  
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.  
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.  
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,  
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:  
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;  
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.  
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.  
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.  
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.  
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.  
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.  
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share your bread.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### Acknowledgments:

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Gathering Hymn: *Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1937-2003

Music: OLD 124<sup>TH</sup>. *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva 1557

Text © Thomas H. Cain. Used by permission of estate.

Hymn of the Day: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

Musical Offering: *Lord, Sanctify Me Wholly*

Text & Music: Thomas Ken & Jean Pasquet (1896-1977)

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Sending Hymn: *Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus*

Text: Sigismund von Birkin, 1626-1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.

Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.

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

# 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:** Usher: Mark Buie, and Lector: Alesia Pearson

**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 6:00pm for a supper of soup and sandwiches. Then at 7:00pm 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!

**Lunch, Learn, & Grow:** We have once-a-month "Sunday School" for all ages on the first Sunday of the month. Join us for a lunch and discussion of the Bible and our Lutheran heritage. Our next meeting will be next **Sunday, March 3, after the worship service.** For lunch, we will have sandwiches. **We are looking for volunteers to bring food.** See the Count-me-in sheet in the narthex to sign up to bring something. Come join the fellowship and ministry together! All are welcome!

**Lenten Collections:** We will have two collections during this Lenten season. If you can help with either of these collections, please bring your donations to the worship services (on Sunday or Wednesday). Thank you for your generosity!

1. During our mid-week worship services on Wednesdays, we will collect monetary donations for the North Texas-North Louisiana Synod Fund for Leaders. This fund benefits seminarians from our synod who are studying for vocations in ministry. To learn more about the fund go to the NT-NL's website.
2. Throughout Lent will also collect food for our local food pantry at White Rock Center of Hope. We will deliver the food items on March 26. We are aiming to collect 20 of each of the following:
  - canned soup
  - cereal
  - boxed meals
  - bisquick mix
  - instant mashed potatoes
  - granola bars
  - bags of flour
  - cooking oil

**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).

**Worship Service Recordings:** The church office is looking rehome an archive of weekly Sunday worship services currently saved on CD's. The recordings were made between May 22, 2011 and March 15, 2020. If you would like any of the CD's please contact the church office ([central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com](mailto:central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com) or 214-327-2222).

**Celebrate the bold women in your life:** Bold Women's Day—observed the first Sunday of March— celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ. Are you bold?



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  
 Yvonne Muirhead  
 Paul Chambers

## Central Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran  
 Church in America

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