

Central Lutheran Church

**Third Sunday of Lent
March 23, 2025**

**The Rev. Veronika Czutor, Pastor
Dr. Joseph Henry, 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

PRELUDE: *Give Me a Clean Heart*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate One,

C you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

C Amen.

The assembly stands.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Sung by the choir.

*Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open,
All desires known and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit,
That we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy Name,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

GREETING

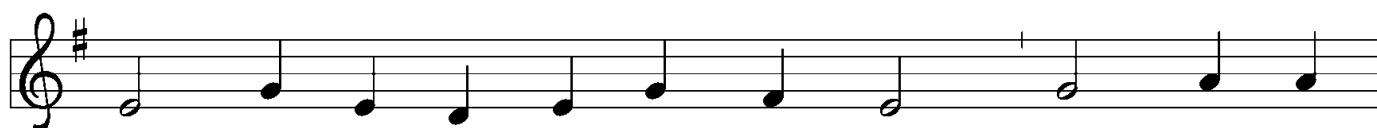
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.

C And also with you.

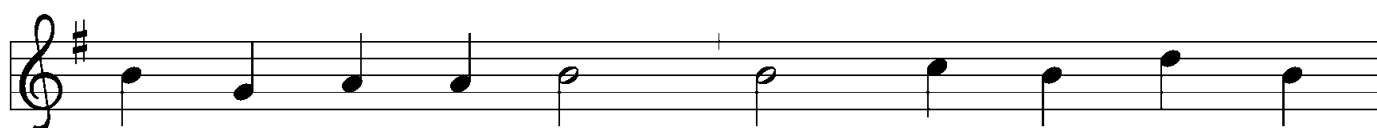
GATHERING HYMN

ELW 320

The Glory of These Forty Days



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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: Isaiah 55:1-9

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

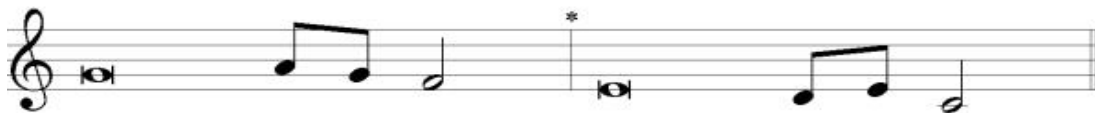
⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 63:1-8

Sung responsively.



¹O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and
weary land where there | is no water.

²**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,
that I might behold your power | and your glory.**

- ³ For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;
my lips shall | give you praise.
- ⁴ **So will I bless you as long | as I live
and lift up my hands | in your name.**
- ⁵ My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,
- ⁶ **when I remember you up- | on my bed,
and meditate on you in | the night watches.**
- ⁷ For you have | been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.
- ⁸ **My whole being | clings to you;
your right hand | holds me fast**

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

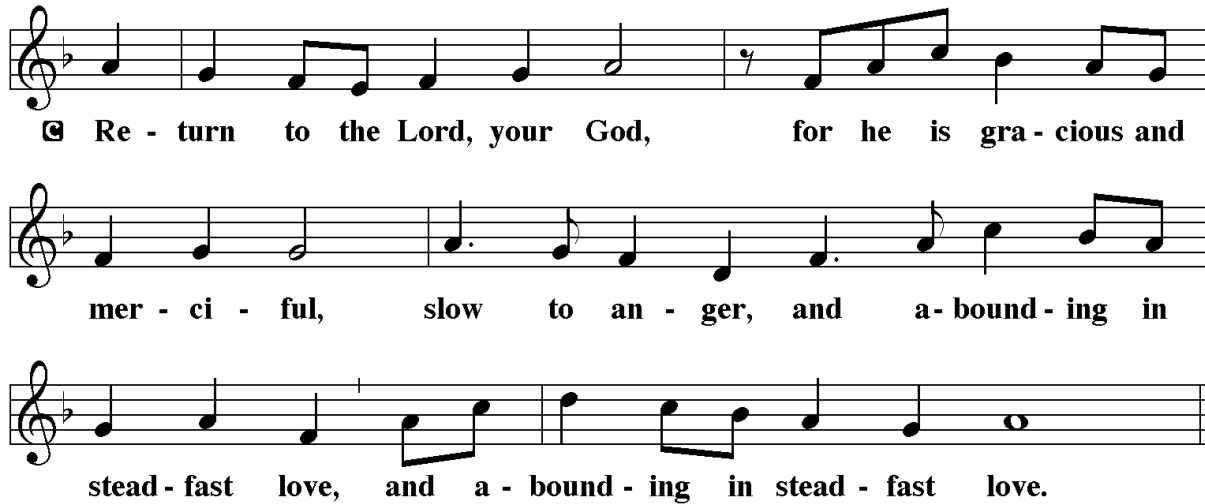
¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

READING OF THE GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Pastor Veronika

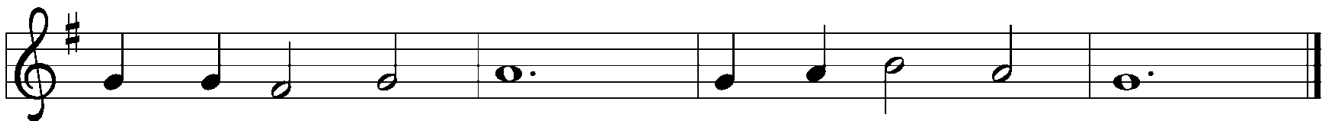
Jesus, Still Lead On



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
 3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
 4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
 safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
 show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
 till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

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 With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation

Please sit or kneel for prayer.

The response to each spoken petition is:

P God, in your mercy, **C Receive our prayer.**

People with prayer needs: **Lydia** Landfair, **Norma** Ruth Myrick, **Brenda** Burden, **Charlene** Zimmermann, **Wayne** Nelson, and **Paul** Chambers.

The prayers conclude:

P ...We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

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: By Gracious Powers

Sung by the choir

*By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
And confidently waiting come what may,
We know that God is with us night and morning
And never fails to greet us each new day.*

*Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
Still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
For which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.*

And when this cup you give is filled to brimming,

*With bitter suffering hard to understand,
We take it thankfully and without trembling,
Out of so good and so beloved a hand.*

*Yet when again in this same world you give us,
The joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
We shall remember all the days we lived through,
And our whole life shall then be yours alone.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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.**

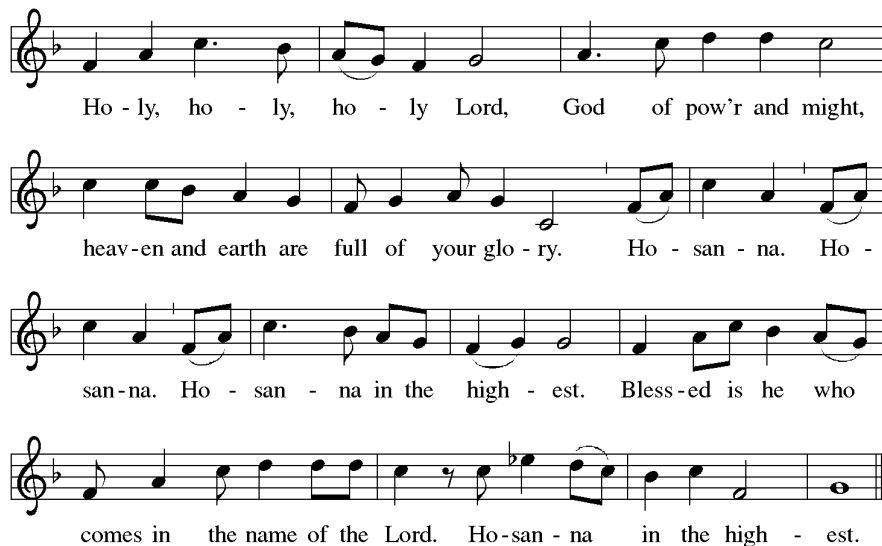
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

C Thanks be to God.

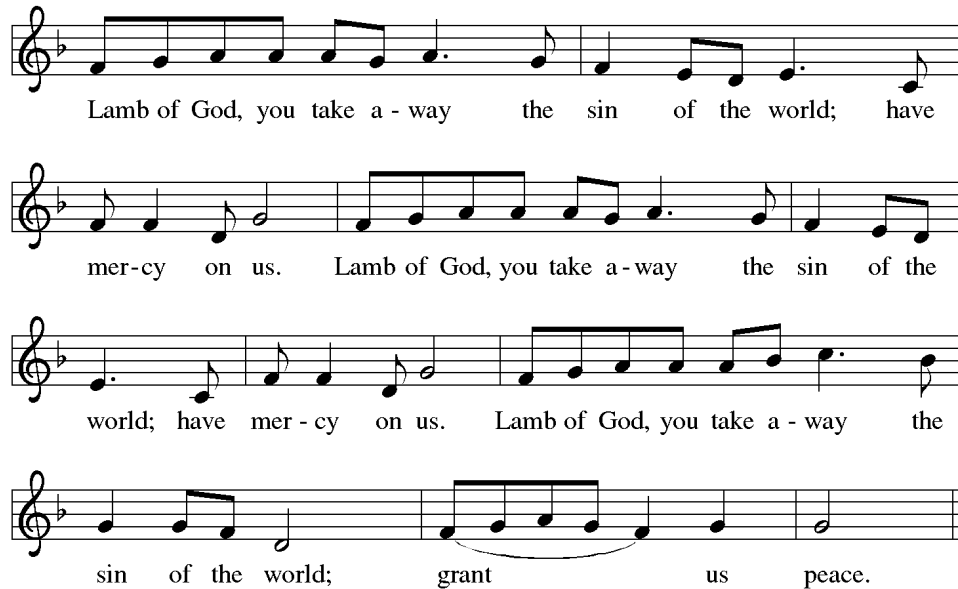
COMMUNION

As you come forward for Holy Communion, please sanitize your hands. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail, where you may choose to kneel or stand. The bread will be placed in your hand, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request—please inform the ministers if needed. The Communion cups contain red wine and white grape juice. If you prefer to receive only the bread, let the ministers know. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.

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.



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

MUSICAL MEDITATION: *Adagio*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous Host,

C you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

**Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

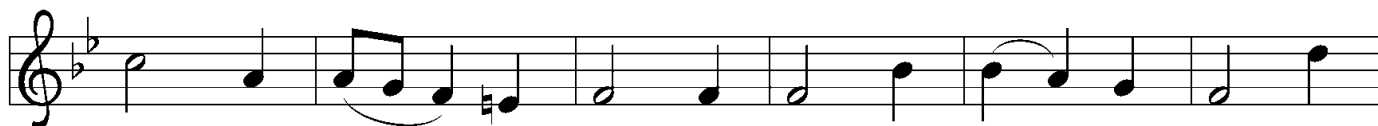
BLESSING

P God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **C Amen.**

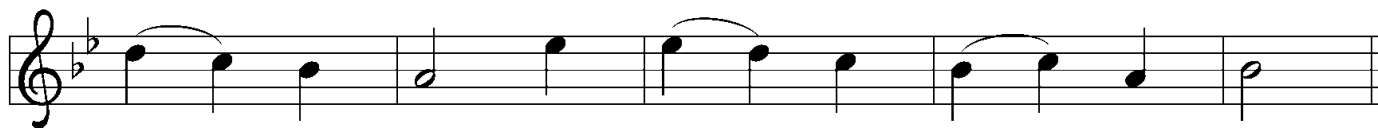
O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
 2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
 3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
 4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
 chang-ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
 head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
 turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
 way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Versets*

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Prelude: *Give me a Clean Heart*

Music: Margaret J. Douroux (1941-) arr. by John Helgen

Collect for Purity

Text & Music: Larry B. McCain (1946-)

Gathering Hymn: *The Glory of These Forty Days*

Text: Latin hymn (11th cent); tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947)

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, Jr. Klug, Geistliche Lieder (1543)

Hymn of the Day: *Jesus, Still Lead On*

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf (1700-1760); tr. Jane L. Borthwick (1813-1897), alt.

Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Dresse (1620-1701)

Musical Offering: *By Gracious Powers*

Text: Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)

Music: Hubert Parry (1848-1918)

Musical Meditation: *Adagio*

Music: Tommaso Albinoni (1671-1750)

Sending Hymn: *O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts*

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153); tr. Ray Palmer (1808-1887), alt.

Music: Walton, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies* (1815)

Postlude: *Versets*

Music: Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726)

Central Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

Pastor: The Rev. Veronika Czutor

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Music Director: Dr. Joseph Henry

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Administrative Assistant: Rachel Brown

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[www.facebook.com/Central
LutheranDallas](https://www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 10 am - 2 pm

You may make an appointment with Pastor Veronika by calling the church office.

Serving in Worship today: Ushers: Alesia Pearson; Lector: Ed Wolfgang;
Assistant Minister: Jeff Lowry

A Message About Lent: The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we journey through 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.

Midweek Lenten Vespers: We will walk through Lent together—a season of reflection, renewal, and drawing closer to God. Join us on **Wednesdays at 6:00 pm for Midweek Services and a Soup Supper** as we journey in faith. We are combining our services with Emanuel Lutheran Church and will be meeting at Central.

Questions During Lent: We are tackling our goals head-on with design thinking. We have a question each week that bring us closer to understanding ourselves and achieving our goals. Be prepared to participate by answering questions with sticky notes on a board posted in the sanctuary (Sundays) or the Parish Hall (Wednesdays). We hope to see the board covered with ideas so bring your thinking caps. **The questions for this week are:** If cost were not a factor, what ministries could our church focus on to best serve our community?

- Local community? National community? International community?

Enjoy the Arboretum with Us: Join us for a visit to the beautiful Dallas Arboretum. Let's enjoy God's amazing creation together. Last time, we went in the fall, and saw the pumpkins. This time we will appreciate the spring blooms. **We will meet at Central Lutheran at 7:30 am on Thursday, March 27 and carpool to the Arboretum (5 minutes away). The first six people get in free with our membership. RSVP by signing up in the back of the church.**

Lenten Collection: During Lent we are collecting hygiene items for White Rock Center of Hope. If you are able, please bring full-size, unopened varieties of the following items:

- Body Wash & Bar soap
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Tampons & Sanitary Pads
- Toilet Paper
- Deodorant
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Laundry Detergent

WELCA Retreat: Join the Dallas Area Women of the ELCA at their spring retreat on **April 5, 2025, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm** with keynote speech by our very own, Pastor Veronika Czutor! The retreat will be at **Christ the Servant Lutheran Church** (821 S. Greenville Ave, Allen, TX 75002). **Registration is \$25 until March 31.** Registration at the door is \$30. Fees include lunch and childcare. Scholarships are available if needed. For more information call Pam Grosze at 918-978-4046 or email her at pgrosze@tx.rr.com.

Candy Collection: During our Spring Festival, on April 13, we will have egg hunts for different age groups. We have as many eggs as we need, but we are asking for donations of candy to fill the eggs. **Our last day for collection is Sunday, April 6.**

Lilies for Easter: You may honor friends and family by purchasing lilies, which will decorate the altar on Easter. The cost is \$15 each, and you may take the plant home after services on April 20. Fill out the form (see insert) and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church. Make checks payable to Central Lutheran Church, or donate online using Givelify, Vanco, or PayPal. Be sure to write "Easter lilies" in the comment line. If you did not receive a form, ask the ushers for one.

Church Council

The council is our group of lay leaders who represent different ministry fields. They meet on the second Sunday* of every month after worship in the Parish Hall. Their next meeting is Sunday, April 6th. All church members can attend any council meeting. If you would like to get in touch with the council, contact the church's administrative assistant, Rachel, and she will help you.

President- Jan Moody

Worship- Mary Glenn

Vice President- Ted Steinke

Education/ Youth/ Activities- Carrie Enocks

Treasurer- Janis Farrow

Evangelism/ Mission & Outreach- Jeff Lowry

Administration- Mark Moody

*Note: the meeting for May has been moved to May 4th.



Open this QR code (or go to linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch) to connect with us, join our mailing list, or make your offering online.

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

PRAYERS FOR HEALING & COMFORT

For healing

Archie and Rebecca Huizenga
Linda Gourley
Robin Friedrich
Norma Ruth Myrick
Elizabeth Brownsted
Elizabeth Cardenas
Brenda Burden
Susie
Wayne Nelson
Charlene Zimmermann

Relationship

Friends of Janis Farrow
Sister of Julie Atkins
Friend of Mary Glenn
Mother of Alesia Pearson
Friend of Janis Farrow
Daughter of Irene Hallmon
Friend of Jean Staffeld
Friend of Laura Haynie
Friend of Sarah Blaser
Aunt of Jan Moody

Church Members

Lydia Landfair
Don Smith
Mario Montejo
Nancy Nulisch
Carol Paschetag
Paul Chambers

Kris McDowell
Yuvonne Muirhead
Mary Swenson
Judy Christiansen
Suzanne Schwenn