



Central Lutheran Church

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 30, 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: *Rhosymedre*

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

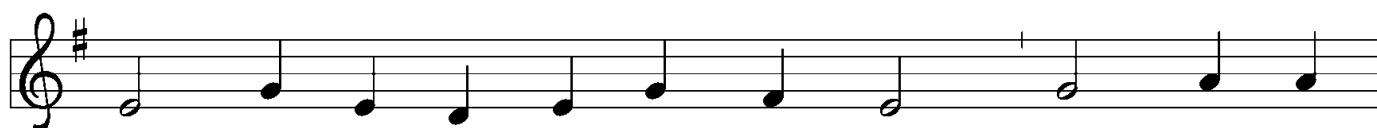
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.

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 God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

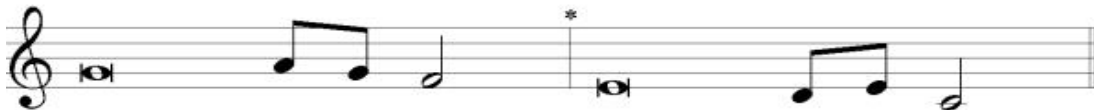
¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 32

Sung responsively.



¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you
forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you
in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;**

I will guide you | with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

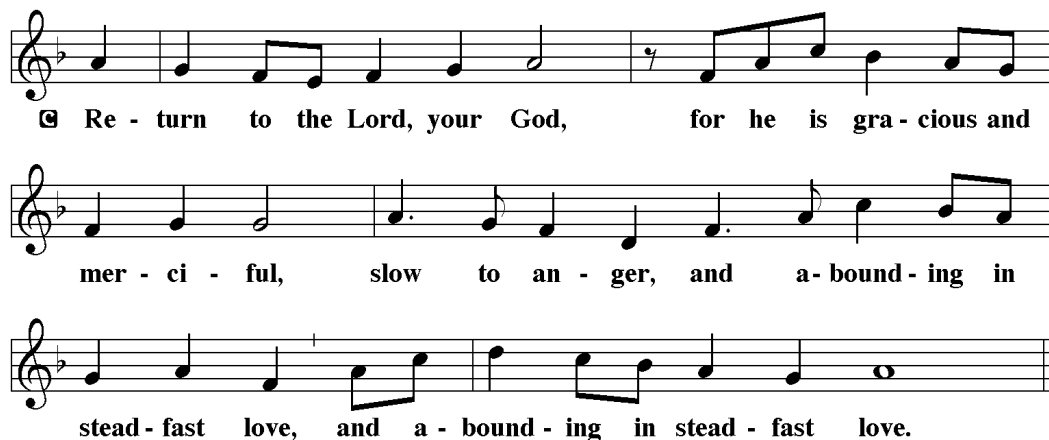
SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

READING OF THE GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Veronika

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 608

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



- 1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
- 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
- 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

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: Ah, Jesus, Lord, Thy Love to Me

Sung by the choir

Ah, Jesus Lord, thy love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;

O bind my thankful heart to thee, And reign without rival there.

Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live, myself to thee entirely give.

*O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell but thy pure love alone.
 Ah, may thy love possess me whole, May joy, my treasure, and my crown.
 All coldness from my heart remove, May every act, word, thought, be love.
 O Lord, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies;
 Care, anguish, sorrow, melt away, Where'er thy healing hands arise.
 Jesus, nothing may I see, and nothing seek, desire, but thee.*

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.

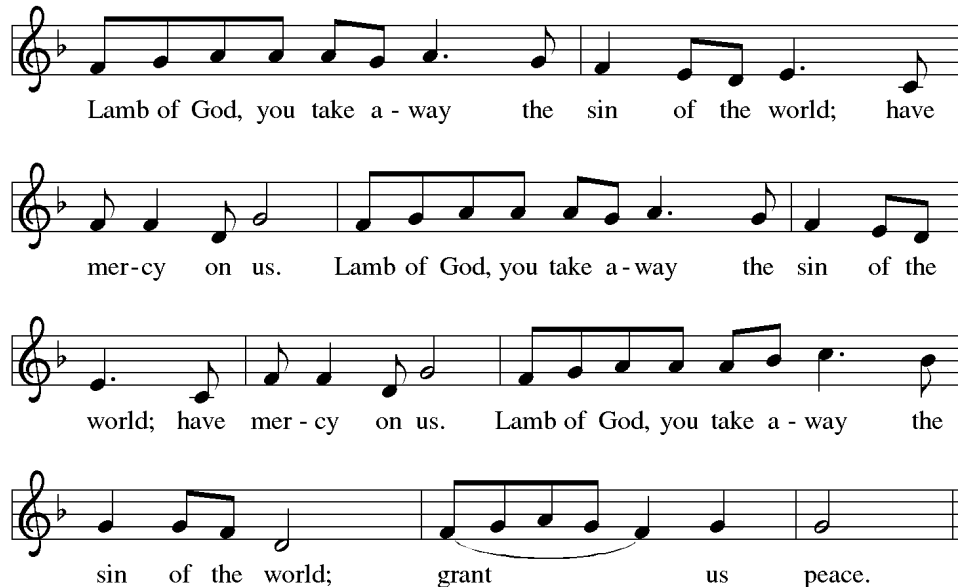
COMMUNION

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: *Andante Tranquillo from Sonata no. 3*

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.**

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
 C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Finale from Sonata no. 6*

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Prelude: *Rhosymedre*

Music: Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

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: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

Text: Will L. Thompson (1847-1909)

Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson (1847-1909)

Musical Offering: *Ah, Jesus, Lord, Thy Love to Me*
Southern Folk Tune, arranged by David N. Johnson

Musical Meditation: *Andante Tranquillo* from
Sonata no. 3

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Sending Hymn: *My Life Flows On in Endless Song*

Text: Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt (1826-1899)

Postlude: *Finale* from *Sonata no. 6*

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Central Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

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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: Mary & Joel Glenn; Lector: Jan Moody;
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: What do you want for the future of our church?

- a. What would a thriving congregation look like to you?
- b. What are you willing to contribute to the future of our 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.

Spring Festival: Come celebrate Spring with Central Lutheran! Our Spring Festival will be on **April 13 at noon** in front of the buildings. This all-ages event will include two egg hunts (divided by age), a bounce house, craft tables, and lots of games. Everyone is welcome!

Candy Collection: During our Spring Festival, on April 13, we will have egg hunts for different age groups. We are asking for donations of candy and small toys 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