



# **Central Lutheran Church**

**First Sunday in Advent  
December 1, 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.*

## **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, alive in the world,  
reviving creation, arriving soon.

**C Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God of mercy,

**C we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

P God of might,

**C we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P God in our midst,

**C we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

P A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

**C Amen.**

## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

**LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT WREATH CANDLE**

Pastor: The season of Advent reminds us of the hope we have in the humanity of Jesus. God came to us, leaving behind the glory of heaven to be a person feeling pain, joy, loss, and love.

Assistant: Today, we light the candle of hope, because in Jesus, heaven came to earth.

## GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

## KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



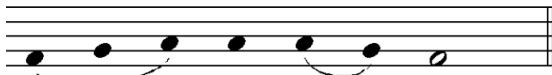
Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



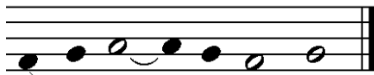
Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your

life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

### **PSALM 25:1-10**

*Sung Responsively*

<sup>1</sup>To | you, O Lord,  
I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O Lord,  
and teach | me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the  
day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of  
your good- | ness, O Lord.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

## SECOND LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Sung by the congregation*

### He Came Down



He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;



He came down that we may have love; hal-le-lu-ia for-ev-er- more.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord**

## READING OF THE GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said] <sup>25</sup> "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not

pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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 248**

### People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## **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 Lord, in your mercy,

**C Receive our prayer.**

People with prayer needs: **Lydia** Landfair, **Byron** Myrick, **Norma** Ruth Myrick, **Paul** Chambers, and **Judy** Christiansen.

*The prayers conclude:*

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

**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: O Come, O Come Immanuel**

*Sung by the Choir*

*O come, O come, Immanuel, Come now to earth and with Thy people dwell.  
The world a waits for heave'n a holy sign, O come and show to us the light  
divine.*

*O come, O come, Immanuel, as age to age the prophet did foretell.  
Redeemer, come to save us one and all, be born again in Bethl'hem's manger  
stall.*

*For thy coming we prepare, wisdom from on high,  
Gracious spirit, Lord most fair; to us draw nigh.  
O come, O come, Immanuel, and free thy children Israel,*

*Be now our hope, our comfort from above, and bless us with everlasting love;  
O bless us all with everlasting love.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

P Creator God,

**C you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

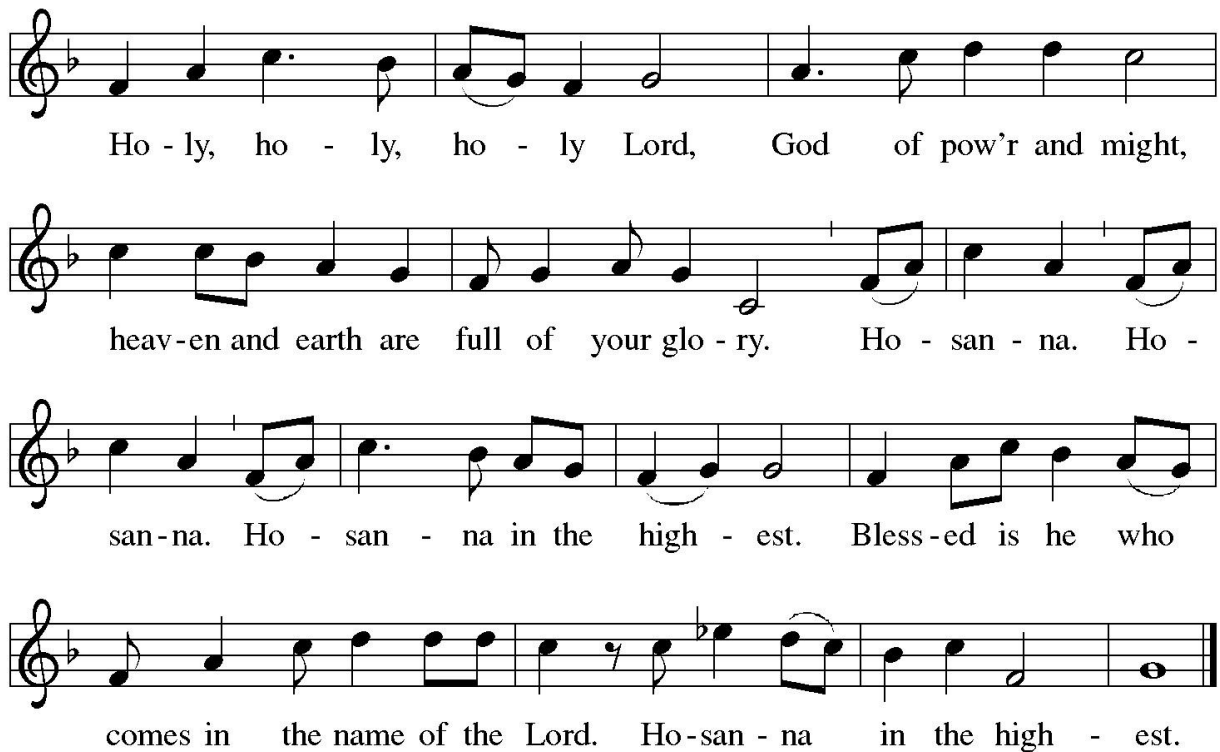
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## **PREFACE**

P It is indeed our duty and our joy . . . 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 Holy One, ... P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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** God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

**C** Thanks be to God

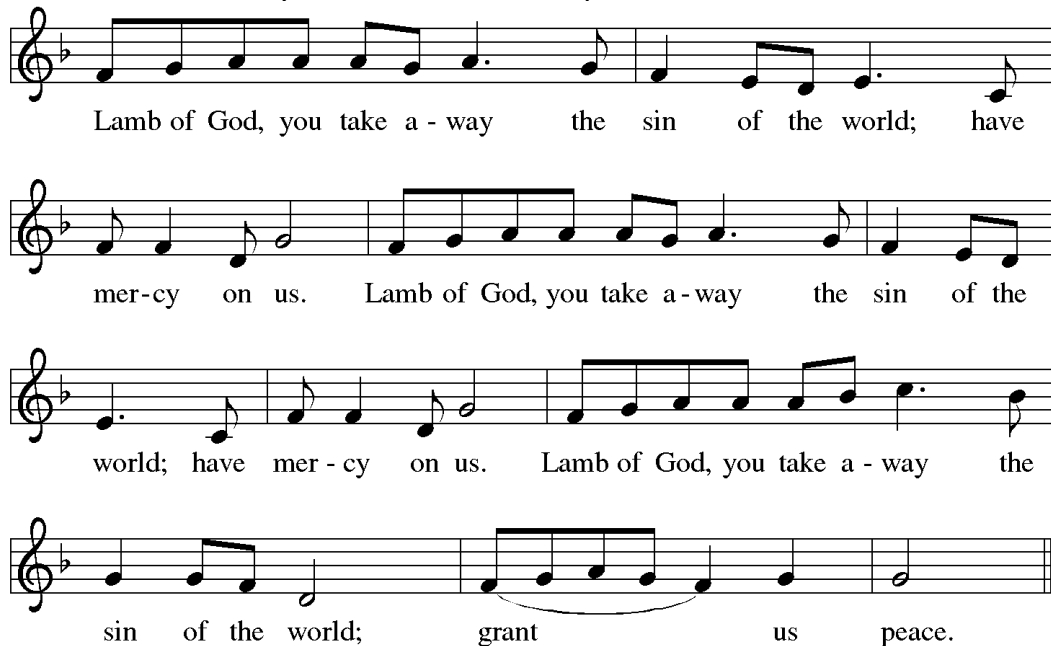
## COMMUNION

*As you come forward for Holy Communion, please sanitize your hands. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail, and you may choose to kneel or stand. The bread will be dipped in the chalice and placed in your hand. If you prefer to receive only the bread, simply let the ministers know. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please fold your arms across your chest. Please note that grape juice is not available at this time.*

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 Let us pray...

**C Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

## BLESSING

P God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, † bless and keep you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

**ELW 260**

### The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phunt breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C Thanks be to God**

# POSTLUDE

## Acknowledgments:

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Gathering Hymn: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Hymn of the Day: *People, Look East*

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BESAÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates

Musical Offering: *O Come, O Come Immanuel*

Music: Natalie Sleeth

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Sending Hymn: *The King Shall Come*

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

## **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. 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 and she will help you.

President- Ted Steinke

Vice President- Jan Moody

Secretary- Linnea Castillo

Education/ Youth/ Activities- Carrie Enocksen

Evangelism/ Mission & Outreach- Anne Monson

Treasurer- Janis Farrow

Administration- Mark Buie

Worship- Mary Glenn

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Pastor Veronika's Office Hours:** By appointment.

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

**Serving in Worship Today:** Usher – Alesia Pearson; Lector – Carmina Castro; Assistant Minister – Jeff Lowry

**Return to Communion Cups:** We have returned to using individual communion cups during worship each Sunday, starting today. If you would like to receive communion in the pew, let an usher know and Pr. Veronika will administer you communion in your seat. We are also looking for volunteers to help with worship preparations and clean up. If you are able to volunteer, please let Rachel in the church office know.

**Midweek Advent Vespers:** Come join us at Central Lutheran (on **December 4, 11, and 18**) for a **midweek Advent vespers and soup supper**, where we'll gather with our siblings from Emanuel Lutheran to prepare our hearts for Christ's arrival. This Advent, we journey through the theme of Mary's Song—a song of deep faith, prophetic hope, and boundless love. In Mary's song, we hear her dreams, her call for justice, and her faith that God is with us. Let her words invite us into a season of expectant hope and a peace that stirs our spirits. Come be renewed as we draw near to the mystery and promise of Christ.

**Angel Tree:** Have you seen our Angel Tree at the back of the sanctuary? Each ornament represents a holiday wish from a refugee or immigrant child through Emanuel Community Center. **Pick an ornament, shop for their wish, and return your gift (unwrapped and tagged with their name and number) by December 8.** Let's make the season brighter—one wish at a time!

**Brain Health Talk:** Want to learn more about how to stay healthy as you age? Want to keep your brain active for as long as possible? Join us in the **Parish Hall on Sunday, December 15 at noon.** We will have a lunch followed by a talk titled "Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body". The talk will be led by Jane, a volunteer from the Alzheimer's Association. All will have the opportunity to ask questions.

## Advent & Christmas Schedule:

- **December 1**- Advent begins
- **December 4, 11 & 18 at 6:00 pm**- Wednesday Advent Vespers and Soup Suppers (in partnership with Emanuel Lutheran Church)
- **December 16 from 9am-Noon**- Gift wrapping at Cesar Chavez Learning Center
- **December 21 at 6:00 pm**- Las Posadas at Emanuel Lutheran Church
- **December 22**- Last Day to Order Poinsettias
- **December 24 at 7:00 pm**- Christmas Eve Worship Service
- **December 29 at 10:30 am**- Service of Lessons and Carols

## Central Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

**Pastor:** The Rev. Veronika Czutor  
972-904-0245 | reverend.veronika@gmail.com

**Music Director:** Harold Knight, PhD  
harchiek74@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant:** Rachel Brown  
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[www.CentralLutheran.org](http://www.CentralLutheran.org)

[www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas](http://www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas)

**Visitation:** If you or someone you know is in need of visitation from Pastor Veronika or one of our visitation team, please contact the church office at central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com or at 214-327-2222.



**Open this QR code (or go to [linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch](http://linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch)) to connect with us or make your offering online.**

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

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING & COMFORT**

**For healing**

Archie and Rebecca Huizenga  
 Linda Gourley  
 Ed Andrewson  
 Robin Friedrich  
 Jover Veraguas  
 Byron Myrick & Norma Ruth  
 Aba Desilus  
 Gail Oehler  
 Asher Parmley  
 Proctor Family  
 Sylvia Chadwick  
 Elizabeth Cardenas  
 Maggie Lund  
 Karen Spitzer  
 Bonnie Knight Sato  
 Elizabeth Brownsted

**Relationship**

Friends of Janis Farrow  
 Sister of Julie Atkins  
 Friend of Anne Monson  
 Friend of Mary Glenn  
 Brother of Ruth Chambers  
 Parents of Alesia Pearson  
 Friend of Victor Chacon Montero  
 Friend of Beth Garcia  
 Friend of Julie Atkins  
 Friends of Julie Atkins  
 Mother of Mary Glenn  
 Daughter of Irene Hallmon  
 Friend of Janet Rashbaum  
 Mother of Kristy Hamlin  
 Sister of Harold Knight  
 Friend of Janis Farrow

**Church Members**

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Don Smith       | Yuvonne Muirhead  |
| Mario Montejo   | Lydia Landfair    |
| Kris McDowell   | Mary Swenson      |
| Nancy Nulisch   | Judy Christiansen |
| Carol Paschetag | Suzanne Schwenn   |
| Paul Chambers   |                   |

**Those We Mourn:** Marilyn Gillett