



Central Lutheran Church

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ELCA central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com | centrallutheran.org

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

Sunday Worship:

10:30 am

Holy Communion
every Sunday

In person or on
Facebook

What is Central Lutheran Church?

We are a Lutheran congregation in East Dallas, part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). At Central Lutheran, we embrace all of God's children, regardless of race, citizenship, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, ability, sexuality, or gender identity. To discover more about our beliefs and values, please visit the back cover.



Advent: December 1 - 24.

Christmas Eve

Worship:

December 24 at 7:00 pm

Join us at a candlelit worship service. We will sing Christmas hymns, read the gospels, and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

What is Epiphany?

January 6 - March 4

The season of Epiphany is a time to celebrate the manifestation of Christ's divinity to the people of the earth. It's also known as "The Gentiles' Christmas" because it commemorates the visit of the Magi.

Words From Our Leaders



As we begin our third Advent season together—and my third as your pastor—I’m filled with gratitude for how we've grown in faith and love over these years. This year, we're excited to combine our midweek Holden Evening Prayer services with Emanuel Lutheran, strengthening the connection of our community. With Harold playing the piano, Pastor Rachel and Melody leading us in song, and reflections on Mary’s Song from me (first week), Pastor Irma (second week) and Jeff Lowry (third week), I invite you to join us on this beautiful Advent journey of hope, joy, and unity. It’s a blessing to walk this season with all of you!

-Pastor Veronika Czutor

Thanks so much for opening your doors to Hope! White Rock Center of Hope is grateful for our ongoing partnership with Central. In recent years we’ve used the Fellowship Hall and Conference Room for a variety of special meetings and a retreat. In support of the organization’s continued growth and lack of space at Hope’s campus on Garland Road, Central has once again stepped in to help. In recent weeks two Hope staff have begun officing at Central: Kimberly Patterson, Senior Director of Development and Communications and Greg Smith, Chief Executive Officer.



- Rev. Dr. Greg Smith



The Tuesday Morning Bible Study finished our exploration of Daniel a bit early this year, so Pastor Veronika found us a four-week study for Advent. It's called The Weary World Rejoices, and it is helping us explore the promises that Jesus fulfilled on Christmas: truth, compassion, restoration and justice. The study is discussion-based, and no preparation is needed. Our hour-long meetings can fit into a busy holiday schedule and help us get ready for the celebration of Christmas.

We would love to have you join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the conference room.

- Amy Brown

Autumn at Central:

A Look Back at Last Season



1. **Taught** a first Communion class for a group of youth who are learning what the body and blood of Christ are all about. It was also a nice reminder for the parents and volunteers that communion is a symbol of God's saving grace.

2. **Learned** from Alesia Pearson about how to help seniors reduce fall risks inside and outside of the home. This Community Chat on October 2 was well attended and full of helpful knowledge.

3. **Collected** supplies for Lutheran World Relief personal care and baby care kits. Lutheran World Relief kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more.

4. **Celebrated** our Lutheran heritage at the **Reformation** Fair on October 27. It was fun to see everyone gathered in front of the church building and connecting with each other. Thank you to all the volunteers especially to Alesia Pearson and Carrie Enocksen for organizing the Reformation activities.



4. **Held a pet blessing** event with Emanuel Lutheran Church.

5. **Learned new spiritual practices** at the Women of the ELCA retreat.

6. Started our day with a refreshing **walk in nature at the Dallas Arboretum**, enjoying the beauty of the outdoors.

Want to Help?

“And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 4:19



Join Our Mailing List

Scan this QR code (or visit linktr.ee/CentralLutheranChurch) to connect with us, sign up for our weekly mailing list or make your offering online.



Meet material Needs

During the beginning of the Advent Season, we collected gifts for our angel tree. Each “angel” ornament was a holiday wish from a refugee or immigrant child through Emanuel Community Center. We delivered over 40 gifts to Emanuel on Sunday, December 8th. Thank you to everyone who helped make these holiday wishes come true!

Give Electronically

We appreciate your generous monetary offerings which support Central Lutheran and our missions here in East Dallas. If you don't wish to write a check or pay cash, we accept offerings online through Givelify, Vanco, or PayPal. Just search for Central Lutheran Church Dallas.

Donate Your Time

There are many ways to help at Central Lutheran. A key one is by using your time and talents to help our community. Some ways you can help are:

- **Pray for people** on our prayer list.
- **Build connection** during Sunday School and Bible Study.
- **Help our neighbors** by volunteering at the Food Distribution Day at White Rock Center of Hope on February 1st.



We value your generosity – Thank you for making a difference!

Recurring Monthly Events

Event	What	When	Where
Hooked on Love	Crochet & knitting ministry for all skill levels	1st Saturday, 1-4 PM	Knit Dallas (6434 Mockingbird Ln)
Lydia Circle	Bible study & service projects for women	2nd Monday of the month, 7 PM	Conference Room (115)
Bible Study	Weekly Bible study for adults	Every Tuesday, 10:30 AM-Noon (No Dec. 24, 31)	Conference Room (115)
Dining Around	Food & fellowship at various restaurants	2nd Saturday of the month, 5:30 PM	Locations announced via mailing list
Caring & Sharing	Sending cards for birthdays/encouragement	Last Sunday of the month, 9 AM	Parish Hall
Sunday School	Bible study, lunch, & guest speakers for all ages	3rd Sunday of the month, Noon	Parish Hall

December Events

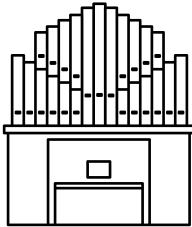
Event	What	When	Where
Christmas Eve Worship	Celebrate the birth of our Lord in a candlelit worship service full of lessons and hymns.	December 24 at 7 pm	Central's Sanctuary
Gift Wrapping at Cesar Chavez Learning Center	Help us wrap gifts for the families of teachers at the Cesar Chavez learning center. Please bring tape or wrapping paper to donate.	December 16 from 9:00 am - Noon	Cesar Chavez Learning Center
Advent Vesper and Soup Supper	Free soup supper at 6:00 pm and Advent Vespers at 7:00 pm, as we explore Mary's Song of faith, hope, and love.	December 4, 11 & 18 from 6-8:00 pm	Central's Parish Hall
Brain Health Chat	A speaker from the Dallas Alzheimer's Association will share insights on brain health and Alzheimer's awareness.	December 15, noon	Central's Parish Hall
Lessons and Carols	A service that celebrates the Christmas story through scripture readings and hymn-singing, reflecting on the birth of Christ.	December 29, 10.30 am	Central's Sanctuary

Special Celebrations in this season



Harold's retirement and 80th birthday party

Let's celebrate Harold! Join us Jan 5, Epiphany Sunday, for a special Retirement & 80th Birthday Party honoring Harold's incredible 60+ years of music ministry! After worship, we'll gather for a catered lunch with Harold's favorite dishes and share stories, memories, and appreciation for all the ways he's blessed our community. Let's make this a day to remember!



Did you know about Harold..

Harold, a Nebraska native, has lived in California, Iowa, Massachusetts, and Dallas. He began playing organ as a child when his church needed an organist, later earning a B.M. in Organ Performance from the University of Redlands and a doctorate in Organ Literature from the University of Iowa. After teaching music at three colleges, Harold moved to Dallas in 1994 and served as Music Director at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Farmers Branch for 16 years. A lifelong student of church music and liturgy, Harold's passion for hymnology spans from Gregorian chant to modern hymn traditions. He contributed to introducing both the Episcopal Hymnal 1982 and the ELW in 2007. Harold's love for music and faith continues to shape his ministry and teaching.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting is on **Jan 26** after worship with a chili cook off
Shape the future, then taste the flavor—
vote on the 2025 budget then eat chili, and cake!

Next Sentinel arrives with the season of Lent - Ash Wednesday March 5

How can we pray for you?

As a faith community, we're here to share in each others' experiences and lift each other in prayer. Whatever you're facing – whether it's a cause for joy, a challenge weighing you down, or a particular intention you're holding close to your heart – we want to join you in prayer.

Please communicate your prayer requests to the church office via
Central.Lutheran.Dallas@gmail.com or 214-327-2222



We lift them up in prayer:



Relatives and Friends For healing

Archie & Rebecca H. , Linda G., Irisz G., Ed. A. , Byron & Norma M. , Robin F. , Aba Desilus,
Gail O. , Elizabeth B. , Maggie L. , Sylvia C. , Karen S. , Bonnie S.

Members

Don S., Mario M., Kris M., Yuvonne M., Lydia L, Mary S., Nancy N., Carol P.,
Suzanne S., Judy C., Paul C.

Let us pray

God of light and hope,

In this season of bold anticipation, we await Your coming with purpose.

In Advent, awaken us to the light that shatters darkness and calls us to act with justice and love.

At Christmas, we celebrate the wonder of God with us, and the courage to love fiercely, just as You loved us.

In Epiphany, reveal Christ to us anew, and guide us to follow His radical love, offering all we have in service to His kingdom.

May this season inspire us to rise, to step boldly into Your calling, and to be Your hands and feet in the world.

In the name of Christ,

Amen.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE:

Our church is part of the ELCA.



ELCA stands for Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States with 3.3 million members across all 50 states. We are part of the Northern Texas Northern Louisiana Synod (NT-NL). A synod is a community of congregations in an area that are led by a Bishop and team who serve as regional support, and guide pastoral and other staff candidates.

Our church shares the beliefs of the ELCA.

By being a part of the ELCA we are saying we agree with their doctrine. All of that doctrine can be found on their website (elca.org). Here is a small piece of those beliefs:

“Jesus lived among us and demonstrated the good news in all he was and did. The good news is the promise that God loves us and saves us by grace alone. This promise was realized when Jesus was crucified. He died on the cross but was raised again in the body and in a new wholeness. As a result, through the gift of grace received by faith, all people can be made whole in Christ and set free to love and serve all people, particularly the vulnerable, just as God loves us.

Christ has freed us from sin and death, even from ourselves, so that we can live as ministers of reconciliation in loving and generous service of our neighbors (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). In Jesus Christ, all of life – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.”

(from elca.org/about)



Our church welcomes all.



As the ELCA says, “We are called to be a church that embraces each person and confronts racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, age, gender, familial, sexual orientation, physical, personal and class barriers that often manifest themselves in unjust treatment, inequalities, exclusion and violence.”