



The Spirit of Central

News about the mission of Central Lutheran Church
Downtown Minneapolis

Sunday, January 3, 2010

In Epiphany we follow the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit

January Worship Life

Worship in January is marked by celebration of the coming of the Light – Jesus Christ, the light of the world. We celebrate Jesus' presence with us in the flesh, beginning today (three days early) with the story of the visit of the magi and their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Expect the appearance of the star, processions of gifts, and a special wise men story for children.

Epiphany worship continues in January with more favorite and familiar stories of Jesus' early ministry: his baptism in the Jordan (a baptism festival), his first miracle at the wedding at Cana, and the announcement of his mission and ministry.

Worship will include gospel processions and weekly celebration of Holy Communion, all honoring Christ's presence in our midst in word and sacrament. Setting nine in Evangelical Lutheran Worship will be the foundation of the music for this season of Epiphany, lending its joyful and festive aesthetic: "We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him."

The epiphany star that hangs over the assembly this season is in the traditional form known as the Moravian star. The Moravian Church is one of the ELCA's full communion partners and is headquartered in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The Moravian star originated in Germany over a hundred years ago and has caught the fancy of other denominations and secular institutions.

The Moravian Star is also called the Advent Star or the Herrnhut Star. The first is appropriate because the star is hung in many churches on the first Sunday in Advent. Because for a long time the star was exclusively manufactured in Herrnhut, Germany, the name of that community was attached to it. It appears that this many pointed star with internal illumination was first a product of the evening handicraft sessions of the Moravian boys' school in Niesky, Germany about 1850. Years later one of the alumni, Pieter Verbeek, began producing it commercially in his home. His son Harry founded the Herrnhut star factory which soon developed into a thriving business with its products being sent to all parts of the world.

Central receives major art donation

August Molder was beloved artist-in-resident at Augsburg College



"Florence Cathedral" by August Molder is on exhibit in South Commons.

The Fine Art Ministry Team has announced the donation of a major work by the late artist August Molder (1914-1982). "Florence Cathedral" is a gift from Mr. Keith Olson of Golden Valley, a friend of the congregation, who had the painting re-framed specially for Central. The gift brings Central's collection of Molder paintings to five, with two of them being gifts from Olson.

Although he began his artistic career as a painter, Molder is best-known for his stained-glass mosaics depicting religious themes, which are at Augsburg College, First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater and St. Olaf College. Two small Molder stained-glass mosaic panels are part of Central's permanent art collection and on display in South Commons.

In his stained-glass works, Molder used individually-sculpted, inch-thick glass pieces held together by an epoxy resin developed specifically for him by chemists at General Mills.

Molder was born in Estonia and graduated from the University of Tartu in 1944 with a law degree. Following World War II, he went to Augsburg, Germany to help restore stained-glass windows. After living in Australia for 11 years, he and his wife immigrated to the United States—and Minneapolis—in 1958.

Our Family Album: SNAPSHOTS OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER IN MISSION

Thanks to everyone who **planned, prepared, decorated, greeted, ushered, played, sang, preached, delivered, and braved (the weather)** to make Christmas at Central meaningful for all!



In the photos (clockwise from top left)—Volunteers and staff prepare the massive Christmas tree; members of the Floral Guild—Edris Vick, Margaret Herum and Lee Reid—receive more than 200 poinsettia plants . . . many of which were delivered to homebound members by people like



Joan Van Wirt; Brad and LaRae Olsson and their children Brooke Lynne (Jesus) and Bradley (sheep) portrayed the Holy Family; youth participated in the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve—David Coltz played his violin; Maggie West was an assisting minister; and hundreds came forward to receive a blessing during the Twilight Service of Blessing on Christmas Eve.



Photos: Joe Bjordal

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, January 4 — Psalm 72; Isaiah 6:1-5; Acts 7:44-53
Tuesday, January 5 — Psalm 72; Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1:10-18
Wednesday, January 6 — Epiphany of Our Lord — Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Thursday, January 7 — Psalm 72; Daniel 2:1-19; Ephesians 4:17-5:1
Friday, January 8 — Psalm 72; Daniel 2:24-49; Ephesians 5:15-20
Saturday, January 9 — Psalm 72; Numbers 24:15-19; Luke 1:67-79
Sunday, January 10 — Baptism of Our Lord — Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

Central Lutheran Church

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Unprecedented collaboration aims to move 150 persons out of homelessness

Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH), of which Central is a founding member, is teaming up with the Downtown Council in a first-ever collaboration between the business and faith communities to move 150 people out of homeless shelters and into permanent housing. The project, known as the "Currie Avenue Partnership," will help individuals currently using the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities shelters on Currie Avenue in downtown Minneapolis. The members of the Downtown Council have pledged to contribute \$280,000 to the project. Member congregations of the DCEH will contribute \$70,000. The funds will be used to hire ten caseworkers, who will each work with 15 people for six months. After that the program will continue with state funding.

Cathy ten Broeke, coordinator of homeless services for Hennepin County and a recent presenter at a Community Ministries Forum here at Central, said such a partnership is unprecedented in Minneapolis and rare around the country. She says advocates for the homeless in other metropolitan areas will be watching to see if the effort succeeds.

Worship Task Force wants your input!

A task force, established by the Council in October, is evaluating the nature of an additional worship service that will serve both the vision and mission of Central and the desires of the community. The task force is now seeking input from members and friends of Central about opinions, needs and hopes for such a worship service.

A five-question survey has been prepared and may be taken one of two ways: online, through a link on the front page of Central's website (www.centralmpls.org) or by completing a printed copy, which is available at the Church Office. Responses will be received until January 17.

Listening sessions scheduled for January 10—Members of the task force will also hear from members and friends of Central in person during two "listening sessions," which will take place immediately following both worship services on Sunday, January 10 in front of the West Chapel in the sanctuary. All are welcome!

Personal gift survey will match skills, passions with ministry opportunities

The Shared Ministry Team will soon introduce a Personal Gift Survey to be filled out by everyone at Central. This tool is meant to help people to discover God's call based on gifts, skills and interests. The information provided will be used as a data bank of Central's gifted people which will allow for better matching of gifts and skills to specific ministries.

"This will allow Central's 'disciples' to feel more fulfilled and successful," said staff and program administrator Barbara Brown, who said the work of the new team is "about how we look at ministry, how we involve people in ministry and about the gifts, talents and passions of our members."

Delegates sought for Gustavus Adolphus association

Central is a member of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations, established in 1989, following the merger that created the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our responsibility is to send delegates to the Annual Convention who will then serve as goodwill ambassadors for Gustavus and Lutheran higher education. Serving as a delegate is a one-year commitment, with an option to continue in the future. Central is currently seeking three delegates. The next Annual Convention is Saturday, April. 17.

You might find this volunteer opportunity rewarding if you: support Lutheran higher education; are an alumnus/na of Gustavus; or are a parent or grandparent of a Gustavus alum. For more information or if interested to serve, contact Barbara Brown at bbrown@centralmpls.org or 612-767-9210.

Celebrate Your Birthday at Coffee Hour Next Sunday!

Next Sunday, January 10, is "Celebrate Your Birthday Sunday" at the 9:30 a.m. coffee hour/fellowship time. If your birthday is in January or February, bring treats and come celebrate together in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. Questions? Contact Diane Nimmer at diane@nimmerfamily.com.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Feed My Starving Children Family Service Event

January 28th, 5:30-7:30pm.

Meet at Central in South Commons at 5:30pm. We'll caravan together to the service location in Eagan. This is an easy & fun way to serve children in different countries by packing healthy meals to sustain them. Many children go to bed hungry. Let's come together to minimize world hunger! Families of 3rd graders and above. Sign up is on family board next to the nursery. *Deadline to sign up is January 25th.*

Family and Friends Night at the Timberwolves

January 29th, 7:00 p.m.

For only \$11 you can come watch the Timberwolves take on the L.A. Clippers. *Sign-ups and money due by Sunday, January 17th.* Sign up forms available on the family board in the hall by the nursery. Fill the form out, put money with your name on it in an envelope and turn it in to the Church Office!! Hurry and sign up your family and friends—tickets will go fast!

Family Winter Fun Retreat February 14th-15th

Lunch at Central at 12:00 p.m., Sunday, February 14, then caravan to Lake Wapogasset for fellowship, fun & food overnight. Breakfast at Wapogasset then drive to Trollhaugen ski/snow tube recreation area & play in the snow! Families can depart from Trollhaugen whenever they choose. Cost is \$200 for a family of 4. Financial assistance is available for families who need it. Sign-up sheet & information is on the family display board in the hall next to the nursery. *Deadline is January 10th.* Please see Greer with any questions.

ACQUIRE THE FIRE: ENCOUNTER Youth Event! February 5-6th

For all Confirmation students, high school youth and friends! More than great worship. More than a great concert. More than great talks about God. ATF is 27 hours set apart to give your teen a life-transforming experience with other Christians their age. It will be a rockin' event at the Convention Center. **Only 10 Tickets available! Sign-up now. Deadline is January 24th.** Sign up on the Youth board by the nursery or email Greer. No cost. Dinner served at Central prior to the concert!

Greer Cherney
Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator
gcherney@centralmpls.org
612-767-9206

Events & Opportunities

Men's Fellowship to hear about "coast to coast bike adventure," Saturday, January 9

Central's Men's Fellowship will hear from Central member George Carlson on Saturday, January 9 (a one-time change from the typical "first Saturday of the month" meeting date), about bicycle touring and his remarkable coast-to-coast bicycle trip last year—from Oregon to New Hampshire. The gathering starts with breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and concludes by 9:30 a.m. There is a \$6.00 charge for breakfast. No reservations necessary.

Habitat for Humanity work day, Saturday, January 9

Central Lutheran Church will again partner with St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral for Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, January 9. If you would like to sign up to volunteer on that day, please contact Karen Knox at (612)767-9211; kknnox@centralmpls.org or Lynn Gilligan at (612)331-4866; lynngilligan@comcast.net. Be part of helping another family find the warmth, safety, and stability of a home!

Downtown Coalition for Grief Support, Saturday, January 9

Central Lutheran Church is partner with eight other downtown Christian congregations in the Downtown Coalition for Grief Support. The organization provides support for those grieving the death of a loved one. Meetings are from 9:30 to 11:30am, and include an educational presentation followed by small-group discussion. For 2010, the Coalition will meet at First Christian Church, 2201 First Avenue South, Minneapolis (the corner of 1st Ave. and 22nd St.). On January 9, Phyllis Campbell will share a personal story about the loss of a child.

Camp Amnicon Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 10

Camp Amnicon has been a ministry of Central since 1966. 2009 was another exciting year for Amnicon and 2010 is full of promise. Come and hear about what's happened over the past year and what the future holds. The Annual Meeting is also a time for food and fellowship, beginning with lunch at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. Members are those who have donated money or service to the camp. Member or not, consider yourself invited to be a part of this tradition.

One-Stop Workshop on Ending Homelessness, Monday, January 11

If ending homelessness is just common sense to you, from a moral as well as practical standpoint, but you think you don't know enough about the issue to talk with friends, neighbors or elected officials with confidence, this advocacy workshop can give you the information you need. On Monday, January 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, Central will host a workshop presented by Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness—an opportunity to meet volunteer advocates from other downtown

churches and hear presenters from Heading Home Hennepin and the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. All are welcome!

Join the OWLS for a special musical treat, Sunday, January 24

Join Central's OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) at Bethel College on Sunday, January 24 for a rare joint concert by the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. The orchestras will perform Stravinsky's ballet score, "The Rite of Spring." Cost: \$17; includes concert ticket and small lunch to be served immediately after the 11:00 a.m. service. Motorcoach departs Central at 1:15 p.m. for the 2:00 concert. Sign up in Fellowship Hall today and January 10 and 17.

"The Economy: Where Do Go from Here?," A Lifelong Learning Forum, Sunday, January 24

How has the economic downturn affected you? What are the prospects for the future? Fellow Centralite, Patrick Egan, Director of Asset Management for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, is an expert in reading the markets. In this forum, he will provide a larger perspective and help us take the long view with regard to our personal finances and the overall economy. *This is for educational purposes only; no products will be sold.* 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Community Room.

Special Meeting of the Congregation, Sunday, January 24

The Congregation Council has called for a special meeting of the congregation of Central Lutheran Church for 12:15 p.m., Sunday, January 24 in the sanctuary. The agenda will include authorization to liquidate property given to Central and matters relating to the conclusion of the Forward in Faith Campaign. All members of Central are invited to attend and be a part of making decisions that will lead us into God's marvelous future.

Ministry Team Leaders Meeting, Saturday, January 30

The leaders of Central's more than 50 ministry teams will meet on Saturday, January 30, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Exact topics are yet to be set, but this meeting is part of an ongoing series intended to be a vehicle for communication between ministry leaders and staff. Come to hear the "inside track" information, ask questions and get connected with other leaders.

"Health Care Reform in America: Is it True to Our Faith," A Lifelong Learning Forum, Sunday, January 31

In this thought-provoking presentation, our own James Hart will take a look at some religious and philosophical underpinnings of what a health-care system should achieve for a society. He will then hold our current system and the future reforms up to this standard. Dr. Hart is most interested in the intersection of health and society, and in restoring democracy to our health-care system. He is the director of the North Central Public Health Leadership Institute at the University of Minnesota. 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Community Room.

Calendar

SUNDAY COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP:

8:00 a.m. - South Commons
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall
Hosted Today by the Sunday Morning Coffee Ministry Team
10:30 a.m. - South Commons
12:00 Noon - South Commons

Sunday, January 3

7:30am - Upper Room Open for Prayer (206)
8:30am - Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
9:45am - Baptism Preparation (Fireside)
11:00am Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

Monday, January 4

10:00am - Worship (Fellowship Hall)
11:00am - Clothes Closet (Restoration Center)
11:30am - Clothes Closet Meal (Fellowship Hall)
5:30pm - Shared Ministry Team (Fireside)

Tuesday, January 5

10:15am - Staff Meeting (123)
1:00pm - Grace Circle (123)
5:30pm - Camp Amnicon Board Meeting (Elbow/Community)
7:00pm - Wedding Planning Meeting (Sanctuary)
7:00pm - MSO Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, January 6

9:00am - AMWOP Workgroup (Fireside)
10:00am - Clothes Closet (Restoration Center)
12:00pm - Executive Committee
1:00pm - OWLS Planning Team (Fireside)
4:30pm - CLCW Board Meeting (Fireside)
5:15pm - Worship Task Force (Elbow Room)
5:30pm - C3 Ministry Team (123)
7:15pm - Central Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 7

9:00am - Open AA Meeting (Restoration Center)
10:00am - AMWOP State Organizing Team (123)
12:00pm - Women's Faith Lunch (Fireside)
1:00pm - Clothes Closet (Restoration Center)
5:30pm - Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5:30pm - Lenten Worship Planning (Fireside)
7:30pm - Central Pacific AA (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, January 8

12:00pm - Downtown Bible Study (Fireside)

Saturday, January 9

8:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
8:30am - AGORA Academy (Community Room)
9:00am - Women's Retreat Planning (Fireside)
9:30am - MSO Board Meeting (128)
9:30am - Minneapolis Brass (Choir Room)
4:00pm - Wedding (Sanctuary)

Sunday, January 10

7:30am - Upper Room Open for Prayer (206)
8:30am - Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
9:30am - Augsburg Nursing Center
9:45am - Sunday School Classes (begin in 222)
9:45am - Confirmation Class (228)
9:45am - Senior High Youth (Youth Room)
10:15am - Baptism Family Gathering (Fireside)
11:00am - Holy Communion (Sanctuary)