



the Spirit weekly

News about the mission of Central Lutheran Church
Downtown Minneapolis

Holy Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2009

Something fun is planned for July 5

You can help make it a big success!



Sunday, July 5

10:00am — Worship with Dixieland Jazz Band

- ♦Join in singing many favorite hymns, led by Stomp N' Dixie (including a procession to the plaza singing "When the Saints Go Marching In")

Followed by a picnic on the plaza!

- ♦All are invited to gather on the North Plaza for an old-fashioned Fourth of July picnic.

(No charge. Free will offering accepted to offset costs.)

- ♦Food. Fellowship. More Dixieland music.
- ♦We're inviting our neighbors and you can help!

Through a series of ads and special promotions, we are inviting the community to join us and discover Central Lutheran Church. Will you help? Please take a poster or flyer to post in a public place. Postcards are also available to assist in inviting others. And, please do invite family and friends to join us on this special day.

(Promotional materials can be found in various places around the campus.)

Catch a preview today!

Following worship this morning, music on the plaza will be provided by Lynn Deichert's Stomp N' Dixie!

One hundred Central households increase pledges for 2009-2010 fiscal year

This weekly update on Central's recent stewardship effort, "Walking Faith," which seeks pledges of financial commitment for the new fiscal year, continues to show that the people of Central are excited about and committed to Central's future. The fiscal year began on June 1.

As of Thursday, June 4, 310 Central households have pledged a total of \$751,955! Of those, 100 households have increased their pledges by an average of nearly 15%.

That is something Senior Pastor Rick Nelson has termed "the generous stretch of so many in their faithful giving for the coming year." Stewardship chair Christopher Lyle calls the response "overwhelming," especially in "these uncertain economic times."

The report also shows that there are 60 pledges from individuals or households who have never pledged to Central before.

The Rev. Mark Halaas, director of development for the Central Lutheran Church Foundation and the coordinator of "Walking Faith," reports that a follow-up effort is now underway. Letters were mailed on June 5 to those members of Central who have not yet recorded their intended giving to Central in this new fiscal year.

Halaas expects that the current effort will exceed last years total pledges of 377.

In the follow up letter, Pastor Rick said "We know it will take the generous lives of many people in the year to come to make Christ's mission happen every day. We are blessed with a God that out-gives and loves us all. As each of us seeks to serve Christ, we who love God and this congregation need to walk faithfully and generously as stewards of all with which we have been blessed."

Training to protect you!



Six members of Central's staff were trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on June 2 as part of an overall plan to help protect the many people who visit our campus. Participating in the training were Dwayne Wright, Malcolm Williams and George Jackson, all of the security staff, Events Coordinator Erica Doss, Maintenance Supervisor David Rodriguez, and Associate Cantor Jane Lien. In this photo, Erica performs "compressions" as George (from left), Malcolm and Jane observe and trainer Sandy Litman of Life Savers times the procedure. *Photo by Joe Bjordal*

Restoration Center volunteer featured on local television

Nalani Lavedure, one of the first to volunteer in Central's new Restoration Center was featured on a local television newscast on Monday, June 1. A news crew from Channel 12, a regional television station covering the northwest Twin Cities suburbs, visited Central Monday afternoon to interview Nalani and Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, our community ministries coordinator.

Part of Nalani's service in the Restoration Center is to help guests search for employment. "She's really made that program start and get off and running so now she's training other folks from the congregation how to create resumes' and cover letters," said Rolf on-camera in the interview.

A video of the news story can be watched through a link on the front page of Central's website at www.centralmpls.org.

New podcast section launched on Central's website

Confirmands' faith statements published

Sermons, music and other information is now available on Central's website in true "podcast" fashion. This means that

you can listen to a sermon, for example, right at your computer or download it as a so-called "mp3" file for listening on your iPod or other device. For now, as changes and enhancements to the website are being planned, a free podcasting service is being used. Sermons are now available from May 17 to the present. Weekly sermons will be published each Monday. A special feature of the podcast section is the faith statements presented by the 2009 confirmation at the May 31 worship service.

You voted; the results are in

A recent survey conducted in the South Commons about what to call the new "servery" or service counter in that space has identified a clear favorite: Holy Grounds, which received 35% of the vote. Other choices were Cafe Soul (8%), Central's Perk (13%), Common Grounds (23%), Sacralicious (4%) and "Your Idea" (16%). "Your" ideas included Betsi's Cake Shoppe, Free Coffee, "It doesn't need a name," Jacob's Java Bar, Martin's Mug, Norske Nook and Yum.

Speaking of serving coffee (and goodies), volunteers are being sought to do just that over the summer weeks both in the South Commons before worship and on the North Plaza after. Contact Karen Knox if you want to help.

Presiding Bishop Welcomes President's Remarks on U.S.-Muslim Relations

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- U.S. President Barack Obama "extended an invitation to a different way of living together in the world," said the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), in response to the president's long-awaited speech June 4 in Cairo, Egypt on U.S.-Muslim relations.

Obama said he came to Cairo to "seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world," based on mutual interest and respect.

In an interview with the ELCA News Service, Hanson said the speech may be "historic, not for its words but for how those words become foundational for us to live together in a world that has too often turned differences into grounds for domination rather than reason for reconciliation."

Hanson was appointed recently to a White House task force on interreligious dialogue and cooperation, through the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. He is also president of the Lutheran World Federation, based in Geneva.

He said the content of Obama's speech affirms the ELCA's commitment to inter-faith dialogue and is consistent with the church's "Peace Not Walls" campaign for a just peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The president's remarks also relate to subjects Hanson discussed with Jordan's King Abdullah II in two meetings earlier this year: preserving Palestinian Christianity, the concept of Jerusalem as a "shared city" and the deepening of Muslim-Christian relations.

In his speech, Obama said he is a Christian but his father came from a Kenyan family that includes generations of Muslims. The president said he is familiar with Islam.

"I consider it part of my responsibility as president of the United States to fight against negative stereotypes of Islam where they appear," Obama said, adding that the same principle must apply to Muslim perceptions of America. "Just as Muslims do not fit a crude stereotype, America is not the crude stereotype of a self-interested empire," he said.

Obama addressed specific issues to Muslims in his remarks: violent extremism in all forms, the situation among Israelis, Palestinians and the Arab world, respect

sibilities of nations on nuclear weapons, democracy, religious freedom, women's rights, and economic development and opportunity.

"His (Obama's) tone was calm, and he exemplified what he called for -- calm, thoughtful, reasoned response to potentially explosive issues," Hanson said. The bishop noted the president's acknowledgement of the difficulty Palestinians -- including Palestinian Christians -- face because of the Israeli occupation. He said Obama challenged those who deny the Holocaust and called for Hamas to recognize Israel.

In response to Obama's speech, Hanson suggested Lutherans engage locally in interfaith dialogue and cooperative responses to human needs, learn more about people of other faiths, and hold the government accountable through advocacy for peace with justice in the Holy Land.

Hanson joined a diverse group of 50 religious leaders in a June 4 letter Obama to continue to make Israeli-Palestinian peace a top priority of his administration. The leaders also expressed serious concern over the "deteriorating situation in the Holy Land" and urged the Obama administration to make real and concrete progress in achieving a "just peace" between Israel and the Palestinians.

Still time to register for Vacation Bible School!

This year we've reinvented it as an intergenerational experience

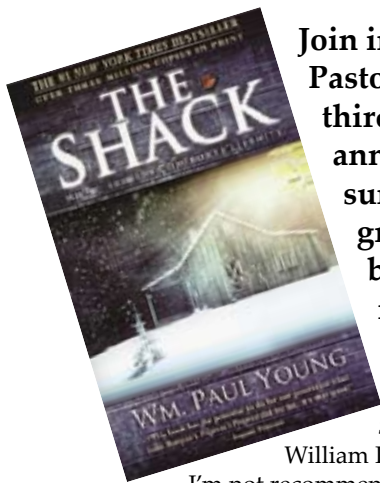
Would you like to take a "vacation" from cooking for a few evenings this summer? Would you like to have fun, worship, sing and learn together with a friend or your family, while still visiting the lake for Independence Day? If so, we have just the thing for you



at Central Lutheran Church this **June 29 – July 2**. This isn't your traditional Vacation Bible School just for kids, but a series of intergenerational evenings where families, adults with no children or without children at home, friends and young adults can grow together in relationship with one another and with Jesus.

The evening will include: **dinner and opening worship**, led by gifted counselors and musicians from Luther Crest Bible Camp; **45 minutes of intergenerational time**, coming together as a large group to have fun with special visitors, such as Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre; **45 minutes of separate children and adult learning**...camp counselors will lead the children in lively, interactive Bible studies, and **the adults will be led by Pastors Rick and Kristen, as they delve into "Strange Birds In Our Family Tree"**...a fun look at our Family of Faith "tree," discovering together a few of the interesting "birds" in our family! Come and see how we might connect their stories with the birds in our own family trees; and **closing worship**, wrapping everything up by 8:00pm. The final evening will be a potluck picnic at Como Park.

The cost is \$30 per person; not to exceed \$75 per family. Registration forms are available at the Church Office.



Join in Pastor Rick's third annual summer book read!

Pick up and read *The Shack* by William P. Young.

I'm not recommending it so much as a great read, but as an interesting one, for it seems to have taken the imagination of readers across the country by storm. It is, at least, discussible! And it raises our sights as to the Trinitarian nature of God that we claim as a basic tenet of our faith. We will meet together for discussion one summer evening only: Monday, August 31, from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

—Pastor Rick

Copies of *The Shack* are available for purchase at the Church Office for \$12.00 or check your local bookseller.

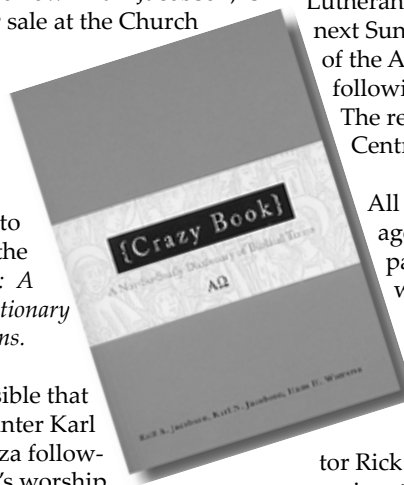
The "Crazy Book" is also available here

Crazy Book, a Not-So-Stuffey Dictionary of Biblical Terms (2009, Augsburg Books), co-authored by our own Karl Jacobson, is also available for sale at the Church Office (\$13.50).

Karl and co-authors Rolf Jacobson and Hans Wiersma, also contributed to the first book in the series, *Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffey Dictionary of Theological Terms*.

It is entirely possible that you might encounter Karl on the North Plaza following this morning's worship service and, with book and pen in hand, might convince him to sign your copy!

Proceeds go to assist the Hannah, Sam and Lucy college education funds!!



Annual Report available next Sunday in print and online; Annual Meeting is June 21

The 2008-2009 Annual Report of Central Lutheran Church will be available in print next Sunday, June 14—one week in advance of the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 21 following the morning worship service. The report will also be published on Central's website before next Sunday.

All members of Central are encouraged to read the Annual Report and participate in the Annual Meeting, at which a budget for the coming year will be considered and persons will be elected to various offices of leadership for the congregation.

In his annual report, Senior Pastor Rick Nelson, says he is "enthusiastic, passionate, challenged by, and hopeful about our life together" and that he believes Central is "alive, vital, and very blessed with generous resources and gifted people." Pastor Rick, who begins his fourth year as Central's senior pastor this month, is one of several staff and lay leaders who contributed to the report. Copies will be available the Church Office and other locations.

Events & Opportunities

Today

Global Mission Forum will feature a "fresh word from Nairobi"

Dr. Carl Follingstad, a member of Central who serves with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Nairobi, Kenya, will speak about Bible translation projects currently underway in east Africa at 11:00am in the Community Room.

Dr. Follingstad recruits, trains and leads a team of translators in a cluster project involving several related languages, just a few of the more than 1,900 translation, literacy and language-development projects known to be in progress worldwide.

This Week

"Interpretations of Faith: Women Artists in the Jewish and Christian Traditions" June 11

The eight artists featured in this exhibit, now showing at the Basilica of St. Mary (May 2 - June 28) will participate in a panel discussion on Thursday, June 11, 5:30pm in the Pope John XXIII Gallery and Teresa of Calcutta Hall at the Basilica. The event is co-sponsored by WomenSpirit, of which Central is a member. All are welcome. Contact: Jean McGrath, 612-874-9385.

Downtown Grief Coalition, June 13

The Downtown Grief Coalition meets Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30am at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis. On Saturday, June 13, Lisa Hansen will speak about "Understanding How Children Grieve." Contact: Joan Van Wirt at 612-333-3273.

Next Sunday

Global Mission Forum, June 14

The Rev. Loren and Elizabeth Bliese, ELCA missionaries in Ethiopia for 44 years, will be the featured speakers at the Global Mission Forum on Sunday, June 14

(11:00am, Community Room). For many years Pastor Bliese has worked among the Afar people, identified by many Christian organizations as one of the most-unreached peoples of the world. When Bliese began his work, the Afar had no written language. He received permission from the Afar chief to open a school for children and also began translating biblical material.

Looking Ahead

Annual Meeting, June 21

The Annual Meeting of Central Lutheran Church will take place following the morning (10:00am) service on June 21. A post-card containing details of the meeting is being mailed to all eligible voting members. On that day, fellowship time following the morning worship service will take place in Fellowship Hall instead of on the North Plaza

Central's OWLS are headed for the Showboat on June 25

Please join Central's Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) for an outing to the Minnesota Centennial Showboat on Thursday, June 25 to see "Is There a Doctor in the House," presented by the University of Minnesota Showboat Players. Cost: \$18. The motorcoach departs Central at 1:30pm; the play starts at 2:30; the group will return to Central by 5:30. **Sign up today!**

Gifts and Souvenirs now on sale!

Postcards, gallery-quality prints, compact disc recordings, fair trade products that support Lutheran World Relief and more. Details and prices can be found in a brochure in the information racks. The items are on sale at the information desk in the South Commons on Sundays and weekdays.

Calendar

Sunday, June 7

7:30am - Upper Room Open for Prayer (Room 206)
8:30am - Summer Bible Study (Fireside)
9:00am - Early Bird Coffee (Holy Grounds - South Commons)
10:00am - Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

Friday, June 12 - Psalm 103:1-13,22;

Ezekiel 16:44-52; 2 Peter 1:1-11

Saturday, June 13 - Psalm 103:1-13, 22;

Ezekiel 16:53-63; John 7:53-8:11

Sunday, June 14 - Hosea 2:14-20;

Psalm 103:1-13, 22; 2 Corinthians 3:1-6;
Mark 2:13-22

11:00am - Fellowship Time with Stomp N' Dixie (North Plaza)

11:00am - Global Mission Forum (Community Room)

4:00pm - Wedding (Sanctuary)

6:00pm - 8 - 80 AA (Community Room)

7:00pm - Evening Prayer with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

Monday, June 8

9:30am - Worship (Fellowship Hall)

10:00am - Clothes Closet (Restoration Center)

10:30am - Clothes Closet Meal (Fellowship Hall)

1:00pm - DCEH Direct Services Committee (Room 123)

6:15pm - Youth Ministry Team (Youth Room)

6:30pm - DCEH Special Committee Meeting (Elbow Room)

6:30pm - CLCW Investment Club (Rooms 222 & 226)

Tuesday, June 9

10:15am - Staff Meeting (Room 123)

Wednesday, June 10

10:00am - Clothes Closet (Restoration Center)

1:00pm - OWLS Planning Team (Fireside)

Thursday, June 11

12:00pm - Women's Summer Faith Lunch (Fireside)

1:00pm - Clothes Closet (Restoration Center)

5:30pm - Worship Pattern Team (Fireside)

6:30p - Safety Policy Training Session (Room 222)

7:00pm - Ivory Coast Bible Study (Elbow Room)

7:30pm - Central Pacific AA (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, June 12

12:00pm - Downtown Bible Study (Fireside)

5:30pm - Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, June 13

3:00pm - Wedding (Sanctuary)

Sunday, June 14

7:30am - Upper Room Open for Prayer (Room 206)

8:30am - Summer Bible Study (Fireside)

9:00am - Early Bird Coffee

(Holy Grounds - South Commons)

10:00am - Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

11:00am - Fellowship Time (North Plaza)

11:00am - Global Mission Forum (Community Room)

12:00pm - Central Friends Meeting (Room 123)

6:00pm - 8 - 80 AA (Community Room)

7:00pm - Evening Prayer with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

Central Lutheran Church

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CHURCH IN AMERICA
WWW.ELCA.ORG



Daily Bible Readings

Monday, June 8 - Psalm 20; Numbers 9:15-23;
Revelation 4:1-8

Tuesday, June 9 - Psalm 20; Exodus 25:1-22;
1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Wednesday, June 10 - Psalm 20;
Numbers 6:22-27; Mark 4:21-25

Thursday, June 11 - Psalm 103:1-13, 22;
Ezekiel 16:1-14; Romans 3:1-8