



# the Spirit weekly

News about the mission of Central Lutheran Church  
Downtown Minneapolis  
*Sunday, June 28, 2009*

## Forward in faith!

*Gratitude, health, mission focus mark annual meeting*



**Four presidents and a pastor!** Pictured after the annual meeting with Pastor Rick Nelson (right) are four persons who either have served, are serving or will serve as president of the congregation. They are (from left) Dick Shinofield, president during the past year, who will now serve as past president, an ex-officio position on the Congregation Council; Bill Masche, current president; Kristin Schoephoerster, president-elect; and Joyce Anderson, who completed three years of "presidential" service at the Annual Meeting. *Photo by Joe Bjordal*

Nearly 200 persons (a record number in recent years) packed Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 21, for the annual meeting of the congregation of Central Lutheran Church. The remarks of our pastors and elected lay leaders all focused on gratitude for the people of Central and its thriving mission, the current spiritual and financial health of the congregation and a call to stay focused on mission.

### Lay leaders elected

A slate of candidates put forth by the 2009 Nominating Committee, chaired by John Hagman, was elected at the annual meeting. Elected to the Congregation Council were Kristin Schoephoerster, president-elect; Karl Starr, secretary; Emilie Brunsvold Anderson, council-at-large; John Bogard, council-at-

large (second term); and David Johnson, council-at-large (second term). Bruce Nimmer was elected to the Audit Committee. Elected to serve as voting members of the 2010 Assembly of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA were Maryon Lee, Judy Erdman, Sid Berg and Chris Stensaas. Allison Winblad and David Sand were elected Assembly alternates. Bruce Ellingson, Karen Hinz and Sara Stensaas were elected to the 2010 Nominating Committee.

### Good financial health; budget passes unanimously

Treasurer Mark Forsberg told those gathered that despite the uncertain and challenging global financial conditions of the past twelve months, "the financial state of Central is good." He reported that

income for the past fiscal year was short of budgeted projections by five percent due to a decrease in revenue from the parking lot and ramp and from the Central Lutheran Church Foundation, which together provide approximately half of the income to the general operating fund. Operating expenses, however, were \$75,000 less than projected, so that Central was only two percent short of its budget for the past year. "In these days," said Mark, "that's pretty good!"

Mark also presented the proposed 2009-2010 operating budget, totaling \$2,621,500, which was approved unanimously.

The congregation also approved the expenditure of up to \$90,000 for completion of "the rain leader" project, which is mandated by the City of Minneapolis and will redirect rain water from the sanitary sewer system to the storm sewer system. Work on the project began on June 22 and will be completed well before Lutherans from around the world begin to arrive for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, which begins August 17.

### Don't get distracted, stay focused on mission, says senior pastor

In his report, Senior Pastor Rick Nelson said that when things are going well it is possible that we can get distracted, and he does not want that to happen. He said there are "two possible distractions in the coming year to watch out for."

The first is the controversy that is expected at the Churchwide Assembly over proposed resolutions about human sexuality. He said there are likely to be "some volatile reports and controversial discussions that will keep many people busy with the wrong things."

"My hope is that we don't get distracted from what we do, from what God wants us to be, by how we differ from the way

[continued inside]

**A Celebration of**  
**Interdependence**  
**Dixieland Style**  
**Sunday, July 5**  
*All are Welcome!*

**10:00am — Worship with Dixieland Jazz Band**

- ♦ favorite hymns and songs
- ♦ Dixieland-style procession to the plaza

**Followed by a picnic on the plaza!**

- ♦ an old-fashioned 4th of July picnic
- ♦ no charge
- ♦ all are welcome

The picnic on the plaza is co-sponsored by our new neighbor, *The Great American Grill* in the



**Next Sunday we're having a picnic and we've invited our neighbors and friends to join us!**

Through a series of advertisements and promotional efforts we have invited the city to join us for worship and a picnic next Sunday. We'll have a worship service with a slightly different style (including the baptism of Pastor Rick's granddaughter) and then some great food and music on the Plaza. Some of the food will be provided by the new Hilton Garden Inn. Don't miss this fun and relaxed day at Central with great fellowship that celebrates our need for each other—our interdependence. Come and help welcome new friends to Central next Sunday!

**News from the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly**

*by Central Voting Members  
 Deborah Bauknight, George Holtan  
 and Leon Tibben*

The 2009 Assembly of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America took place May 29 and 30 at Augsburg College. The two day assembly was full of worship and business.

Reminders of our diversity, as well as our shared heritage, abounded in the display of member churches' baptismal fonts in the meeting space and the Women of Hope prayer quilt—made by Nigerian women—which was the backdrop for the speakers. In worship many languages were spoken including songs led by Bread of Life, a local congregation for the deaf.

Dr. Rolf Jacobson, associate professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, was the keynote presenter and spoke about Martin Luther's view of the law—what God has commanded us to do for our neighbors or ourselves—and gospel—what God has promised to us because it is impossible for it to be accomplished any other way. We raised \$7,269 dollars for World Hunger Appeal as our offering. There were 548 voting members in attendance who drank over 150 gallons of fair trade coffee (in our own mugs), more than twice what was expected for a crowd that size!

We passed many resolutions including the budget. Local congregation giving is projected to be the same at \$3,800,000 of which 55% is committed to national mission support. The remainder goes to support staff and office expenses, contributions to shared ministries such as ELCA colleges and the Minnesota Council of Churches and to programs that serve congregations. Once again the synod is unable to give the full commitment pledged to Luther Seminary.

Other resolutions included researching multicultural participation in synod assemblies, funding for inner-city congregations, supporting Braille hymn books, support for the ELCA Human Sexuality Statement, supporting permanent resident status for Liberian people, comprehensive immigration reform, and to call for a national department of peace.

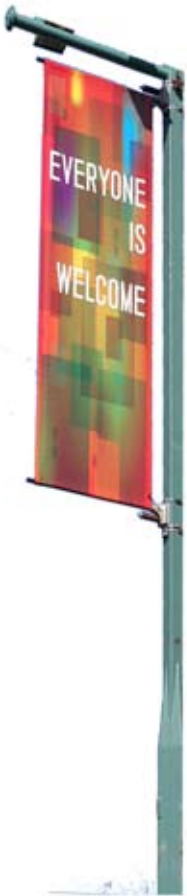
There are 119 people in candidacy for rostered ministry of which 63 are women and 10% are people of color. They typically graduate with \$45,000 of debt and there was some discussion about how to assist with funding these expenses in the future.



**Junior high youth spend the week at camp**

Central's junior high youth group spent the week of June 21 at Camp Amnicon, where they canoed the Amnicon River, camped on a beach on Lake Superior and more. Here the campers proudly display their wood pile, collected to fuel the campfire on Thursday, June 25 for a night by the Flambeau River. Pictured from left are: Maddy Nicol, Nicole Bauknight, Oliver West, Quentin Williams, Clayton Thomas, Luther Huset, Sully Brenke, and Chris Stanley.

*Self-timer Photo by Clayton Thomas*



# On being welcoming

a reflection on Pride Sunday

by Kevin Lile, leader of Central's GLBT Advocacy Ministry Team

I am one of a number of Central members participating in the ELCA's Book of Faith Initiative this year. We are reading the entire Bible, and Pastor Rick is guiding us on this journey. It is fascinating and enlightening. I'm learning a lot and am thinking and reflecting much. In my reading thus far, I've found hospitality and welcome to be reoccurring themes in both the Old and New Testaments. Treating the "foreigner in our midst" with hospitality is commanded. Hospitality and welcome are integral to living our faith.

June is GLBT Pride Month, an appropriate time for reflection about the inclusivity of Central's welcome and hospitality. For most of the five plus years that I have been a Central member, I have also had the privilege of being a member of the GLBT Advocacy Ministry Team, and participating in the team's work. Working with this team has been a blessing to me. I am honored and humbled by this association with a group of people who "walk the talk" of God's all encompassing love and acceptance for all people.

I believe we have come a long way in terms of the inclusivity of our welcome at Central. Our welcome statement is displayed prominently in our communications. We are regular advertisers in the GLBT community's Lavender magazine. We co-sponsor a booth, with other downtown area churches, at the Pride Festival and our welcome banners on the North Plaza boldly proclaim our welcome to all people. Central is hosting a worship service by Lutherans Concerned/North America during the Churchwide Assembly in August. Many Central members are involved in hospitality and welcoming in a number of different ways, both formally and informally. For me at least, Central has the "feel" of a more welcoming place today.

So, what's next? I believe that hospitality is a continuing work in progress. To keep it alive and vibrant, we have to seek new ways of expression. We have to be continually moving forward. Our location in the "heart of the city" gives us numerous opportunities to be a blessing to the community around us, and can be a source of our vitality as a congregation. Central can, and should, be a place where we joyfully celebrate both our unity and our diversity.

## Vacation Bible School starts tomorrow

**Still time to register;**

**Invite friends at no cost**

Central's "reinvented" Vacation Bible School—an intergenerational, four-day, evening program—begins tomorrow, June 29. There is still time to register and a special offer has been extended to encourage Central members to invite new friends. Individuals and families new to Central—those who have not participated in the past—are welcome to attend without cost!

The program will run from Monday, June 29 through Thursday, July 2, from 5:30 to 8:00pm. The evening will begin with dinner and opening worship followed by 45 minutes of intergenerational learning. There will also be 45 minutes of separate learning for adults and children. The adult sessions will be "team taught" by Pastors Kristen and Rick. Closing worship will conclude the evening. The final session on Thursday will feature a picnic at Como Park.

The registration fee is \$30 per person, not to exceed \$75 per family and includes dinner. Again, the fees will be waived for those new to Central.

Registration forms are available at the Church Office today!

## Annual Meeting [continued]

we see this world when there is so much to agree on. I hope you will come with me and not be distracted by the things that will distract so many," said Pastor Rick.

"Keep in mind our calling to serve this city and world with grace and dignity. Let's live out our welcome statement, let's live with some differences and move forward."

Pastor Rick also said we can get distracted by complacency "when things are calm and lovely. We can get distracted by the good times, and I don't want that for us. I want to keep the inertia going."

He said Central has a vision of being a thriving downtown congregation that "can show the church how to get it done, how to stay faithful and how to stay focused. I think we are on track for that, but it will take attention."

"We will attend to it. We will attend to God. We will 'major in the majors,' let the minor things go, and move forward."

Central's ninth senior pastor also told the congregation that "we have a great opportunity to reinterpret ourselves as a player in the city again—which is a big part of our legacy."

He said that the new Restoration Center is expanding our community ministries and "making a great name for Christ in the city" and that he feels it will be a significant part of the heartbeat of our congregation in the year ahead.

"Re-imagining ourselves in the context of this city excites me. I love the idea of reaching new people. This is our mission field; this is why we are here. We are going to be a player in the city again—one that plans to stay for generations to come. And we're going to thrive, not just survive," said Pastor Rick.

### Great days now

In his closing remarks newly-installed president Bill Masche said that many have spoken to him lately saying that "the greatest years are ahead." But, he said, "the preaching, music, worship, ministry, fellowship and stewardship say one thing to me: that the greatest years are now. The great dedication of members, the faith, the spirit of Central tells me that the great years are back."

"In this great 90th year, let's all work together with joy, telling others about Central and expressing to God our gratitude for allowing us to be part of this time and this place."

# Events & Opportunities

## Today

### Celebrating the Hagmans' 60th Wedding Anniversary

Our fellowship time this morning, following the service, will take place on the North Plaza (weather permitting) and will be hosted by Joan and John Hagman, along with family and friends, as they celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

Music on the Plaza will be provided by Derek Johnson and the "High 48s," one of Minnesota's most popular bluegrass bands.

## Looking Ahead

### Join Central's OWLS on a St. Croix Riverboat Cruise, July 16

The OWLS (Central's Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) will cruise the scenic St. Croix River on Thursday, July 16. Buffet lunch onboard included! Cost: \$19. Motorcoach departs Central at 10:00am and returns by 3:30pm. **Reserve your place today at Sign-Up Central at the Church Office.**

### Farewell party for Amanda Highben, Wednesday, July 29

The congregation is invited to a farewell party for our departing Youth and Family Minister on Wednesday, July 29, 7:00 to 8:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Appetizers, punch, coffee and cake provided. All are welcome. RSVP: Pastor Kristen Jacobson at [kjacobson@centralmpls.org](mailto:kjacobson@centralmpls.org).

### 16th Annual Lutheran Night at the Twins, August 26

Join friends, family and more than 76,000 Lutherans to watch Minnesota Twins take on the Baltimore Orioles. If you would like to help coordinate Central's participation in this night of fun and fellowship, contact Karen Knox (612)767-9211; [kknnox@centralmpls.org](mailto:kknnox@centralmpls.org). Tickets may be purchased at the Church Office the following Sundays: July 12, 19, and 26. Cost: \$21.

## Daily Bible Readings

**Monday, June 29** - Psalm 88; Leviticus 21:1-15; 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

**Tuesday, June 30** - Psalm 88; Leviticus 15:19-31; 2 Corinthians 9:1-5

**Wednesday, July 1** - Psalm 88; 2 Kings 20:1-11; Mark 9:14-29

**Thursday, July 2** - Psalm 123; Jeremiah 7:1-15; 1 Corinthians 4:8-13

## 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 17-23

### Volunteers Needed!

Nearly 2,000 Lutherans will descend on Minneapolis for the biennial legislative meeting of the ELCA, hosted by the Minneapolis and St. Paul Area Synods. Over 1,000 volunteers are needed at the Minneapolis Convention Center to work various shifts and carry out the myriad of tasks necessary to host a national convention.

Information about volunteer opportunities at the Convention Center and online volunteer registration can be found on the website of the Minneapolis Area Synod at [www.mpls-synod.org](http://www.mpls-synod.org).

### Hilton Garden Inn Sunday brunch discount for Central members and friends

The Hilton's breakfast buffet, normally \$12.95, is available to Central members and guests for only \$8.95, a savings of more than thirty percent! The breakfast buffet is served until 1:00pm on Sundays.

*Your worship bulletin is your "coupon" for this special deal.*



### Wanted for the Upper Room: a gently-used recliner

Central's Prayer, Spirituality and Meditation Ministry Team would like to put a recliner (Lazy Boy, etc.) in the Prayer Ministry Room (the Upper Room). Contact

Pastor C if you can help. This is just one of many needs that can be found in the "Idea Book for Special Giving at Central." The brochures are available in the information racks in the South Commons or at the Church Office.

# Calendar

## Sunday, June 28

7:30am - Upper Room Open for Prayer  
8:30am - Summer Bible Study (Fireside)  
9:00am - Early Bird Coffee (Holy Grounds)  
**10:00am - Holy Communion, Service of Healing (Sanctuary)**  
11:00am - Fellowship Time with the High 48s (North Plaza)  
11:00am - Baptism Preparation Gathering (Fireside)  
11:00am - CLCW Planning Meeting (Room 123)  
6:00pm - 8 - 80 AA (Community Room)  
**7:00pm - Evening Prayer with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)** followed by fellowship in South Commons

## Monday, June 29

9:30am - Worship (Fellowship Hall)  
10:00am - Clothes Closet (Restoration Center)  
10:30am - Clothes Closet Meal (Fellowship Hall)  
1:30pm - Churchwide Assembly Local Arrangements Team (Fireside)  
5:30pm - Shared Ministry Team (South Commons)  
5:30pm - Vacation Bible School Begins!

## Tuesday, June 30

10:15am - Staff Meeting (Room 123)  
5:30pm - Vacation Bible School

## Wednesday, July 1

10:00am - Clothes Closet (Restoration Center)  
1:00pm - OWLS Planning Team (Fireside)  
5:30pm - Vacation Bible School

## Thursday, July 2

12:00pm - Women's Summer Faith Lunch  
1:00pm - Clothes Closet (Restoration Center)  
5:30pm - Vacation Bible School (OFFSITE)  
7:30pm - Central Pacific AA (Fellowship Hall)

## Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4

Building Closed - Independence Day holidays

## Sunday, July 5

7:30am - Upper Room Open for Prayer  
8:30am - Summer Bible Study (Fireside)  
9:00am - Early Bird Coffee (Holy Grounds)  
**10:00am Holy Communion (Sanctuary)**  
11:00am Community Picnic (North Plaza)  
6:00pm - 8 - 80 AA (Community Room)  
**7:00pm - Evening Prayer with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)** followed by fellowship in South Commons

A CONTINUALLY-UPDATED EVENTS CALENDAR CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.CENTRALMPLS.ORG](http://WWW.CENTRALMPLS.ORG)

## Central Lutheran Church

333 South 12th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
Office: 612-870-4416  
Info Line: 612-767-9101

Office of Communication  
[news@centralmpls.org](mailto:news@centralmpls.org)

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN AMERICA  
[WWW.ELCA.ORG](http://WWW.ELCA.ORG)

