



# the Spirit weekly

News about the mission of Central Lutheran Church  
Downtown Minneapolis  
**Sunday, July 5, 2009**

## Welcome to Central!

Today we celebrate our **interdependence**—our need for God and our need for each other along life’s journey! And we’re doing it in a more relaxed style: Dixieland style! Today’s morning worship service includes some traditional hymns, sure to be familiar to many. The morning service also includes a very special event for our Central family: the baptism of the granddaughter of senior pastor Rick and Annette Nelson.

## Caring for God’s people in need

*Central’s community ministries feed, clothe, counsel and advocate*



### Centralites join in a “witness of lament”

Several members of Central Lutheran Church participated in a rally on the steps of the Minnesota State Capitol on Tuesday, June 30, calling attention to the plight of 30,000 vulnerable Minnesotans whose health care will be eliminated because necessary funds were vetoed at the end of the recent legislative session. The rally was organized by the Minnesota Council of Churches. Speakers at the rally included Bishop Peter Rogness of the Saint Paul Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Central was also represented at the event by Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH), of which Central is a founding member, and its congregational organizer Heidi Johnson. She said that the participation of Central’s members “is an illustration of our call as faithful people to be caring for the vulnerable and poor in our community.”

**Photo inset:** Three Central members participating in the rally were, from left, Ann Oyen, Janet Krofta and Gayle Dustrud—all members of the Heading Home Central Ministry Team (see story at right for explanation). *Photos by Heidi Johnson*

Ninety years ago, the Rev. Dr. J. A. O. Stub, founding pastor of Central Lutheran Church said, “This church must strive to be a real church home for people of all conditions and ages.” He also said that Central does not exist so much for its members as for the opportunity it gives them to serve. Service to the city and the world has been at the core of Central’s identity since 1919.

That legacy is alive today says the Rev. Kristen Jacobson, associate pastor for youth, family and community ministries. “There are amazing and faithful servants in our midst who are caring for God’s people in need in ways that are restoring lives in Jesus’ name,” said Pastor Kristen. Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, community ministries coordinator, said, “God is truly at work here.”

### Here’s an overview of Central’s Community Ministries:

#### The Restoration Center

The Restoration Center—Central’s outreach and social justice center—opened on March 2, 2009. Within the newly-re-modeled space guests can “shop” for free clothes in the Clothes Closet (a Central ministry since 1967), seek financial assistance (for prescriptions, glasses, dental work, transportation and rental assistance), and get a limited medical check-up by nurses in the Augsburg Nursing Center.

The Restoration Center also includes a room reserved for homeless women and children, complete with toys and games.

CONTINUED INSIDE

# On a Journey Together

AN OCCASIONAL PHOTO FEATURE



## Vacation Bible School concludes

Central's first intergenerational Bible school took place this past week—Monday to Thursday. Nearly 60 persons—adults, youth and children—participated in the program, which included dinner, an intergenerational learning time, specialized learning times for children, youth and adults, and a closing worship service. The program concluded on Thursday evening with a picnic at Como Park. Here VBS participants watch Nikki Mattson, an educator from the Como Park Zoo, who brought a traveling exhibit, "Rockin' Reptiles" for the Monday evening program.



## Celebrating a 60th wedding anniversary

Long-time Central members Joan and John Hagman (second and third from right) celebrated the milestone event during fellowship time on the North Plaza on Sunday, June 28, which was sponsored by members of their immediate family, pictured here. Dozens and dozens greeted Joan and John in a receiving line while music in the background was provided by Central's favorite Bluegrass band, The High 48s.



## A resource to the wider church

Central's Cantor, Mark Sedio, has been away for the past two Sundays, but it's not vacation time. Central is blessed to have such a creative and competent director of music, and he is a resource to the wider church on behalf of Central. His hymn tunes are sung and organ compositions played in churches around the world. And he is a sought after instructor and presenter. Mark is currently serving on the faculty of a national Presbyterian conference on worship and music at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina. He is pictured here on June 30 teaching a class on "global music."



## The carillon sounds for a soon-to-be new American

Rukiya Abdi (center in black veil), a student at the UCAM English Language School based at Central, completed an interview on June 30 that will allow her to become an American citizen. An immigrant from Somalia, Rukiya never attended school in her home country, but has now mastered the English language, says UCAM school director Colleen Casey. The school celebrated Rukiya's achievement on July 2 with cake on the North Plaza as the Central Carillon sounded in her honor.

Central photos by Joe Bjordal. Montreat iPhone photo by the Rev. Jeffrey Sartain.

The Center's reception office houses two computers and a public telephone which can be used by unemployed persons seeking jobs. Job coaches also help guests create resumes, cover letters and navigate the Internet for employment opportunities.

Pastoral care and spiritual direction is offered by Central's pastors, retired pastors, and a spiritual director from City House.

A community meal, preceded by a worship service, is served to an average of 200 guests each week.

All this is carried out by more than 55 volunteers who sort and prepare clothes, cook and serve food and offer counsel and prayer. Central's Community Outreach Ministry Team oversees the entire effort.

### Heading Home Central—a new social justice ministry team

Heading Home Central is a new ministry team focusing on the systemic and structural issues surrounding homelessness and poverty. The team now has 11 members and Rolf says they are "full of passion." The team will carry out a variety of advocacy and information efforts within the congregation and help create educational opportunities focused on homelessness and poverty for the greater community.

### Central is also involved in two partner community ministry efforts:

#### Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH)

Central Lutheran Church is a founding member of DCEH, a collaboration of downtown Minneapolis congregations who work together to end homelessness by using our civic voice to educate and push the community from *managing* homelessness to *ending* homelessness and poverty. Pastor Kristen and Rolf both serve on the DCEH steering committee. Three Central members serve on the DCEH inter-faith team, which plans educational forums and events. Central provides office space for DCEH's congregational organizer, Heidi Johnson.

#### Project Homeless Connect (PHC)

PHC is a massive effort, mounted twice yearly by Hennepin County to offer a variety of services to homeless persons at the Minneapolis Convention Center. At the May 2009 event alone, over 3000 homeless persons were served by over 1500 volunteers. Central has increased its involvement in PHC since Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer joined the steering committee.

## For sale: two crypts and a condo

Because of two fairly recent bequests, Central has taken title and ownership of two titled real estate pieces. The church would like to sell these at a fair market price and receive the proceeds for our undesignated bequests funds that assist the operating budget and capital replacement fund.

The first parcel is a one-bedroom condominium at River Towers. It is Condo B406 and is located at 19 1st Avenue South in downtown Minneapolis. Located on the 4th floor, it is accessible by any of four elevators and stairs. The building is equipped with a fitness center on the top floor and laundry facilities in the basement. No parking space is provided with this condo but space may be obtained directly from the building association management. The monthly association dues are approximately \$312.00 monthly, which includes water, natural gas, and cable. Electricity and telephone are paid separately.

The second parcel, 2 crypts, is in the Chapel of Angels building at Sunset Memorial Park. The crypt numbers are 15 and 16, Section 216. They are listed as two adult interment spaces.

Inquires about the purchase of either may be made to Business Administrator David Alexander at [dalexander@centralmpls.org](mailto:dalexander@centralmpls.org) or 612-767-9220.

## Volunteer Opportunities in the Restoration Center

Central's new Restoration Center, which includes the Clothes Closet, begun in 1967, is a ministry that prepares and serves a meal to the homeless community on Monday mornings and provides clothing on Monday and Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Contact Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer or Karen Knox for a tour of our new Restoration Center space or if you would like to volunteer. Among the many opportunities to be of service are: computer guide, front desk receptionist, spiritual guide, retired or part-time clergy, educator, Clothes Closet volunteer, community meal preparer, community meal server, and Monday worship disciple.



### Drive for portable typewriters extended!

The Global Mission Ministry Team is collecting non-electric portable typewriters for use in outlying areas of New Guinea. **The drive will now be extended through the month of July.** Bring typewriters to the Church Office.

## Why I am volunteering at the Churchwide Assembly

by Leonard Flachman



It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience (if you were the right age). I was! When the circus came to town, I was 11. I was among the locals who volunteered to be on their crew and

was accepted. What a great experience to be behind the scenes, to watch the big top being pulled up by the elephants, to see the lions and tigers readied for their acts, to bring lunch for the clowns.

The August ELCA Churchwide Assembly is such a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and you are the right age. The last Churchwide Assembly was held in Minneapolis 14 years ago, and before many other churchwide gatherings. This is the people of God at work to set the direction for the mission of the church. (See what God is calling us to do.) More than 1000 voting members will come from every state, from large congregations and small congregations (Meet those who God is also calling).

Barb Brown of our Central staff is co-chair of the local arrangements committee. The committee is still seeking volunteers for a variety of functions. I have volunteered. Will you? There will be no elephants and no clowns, but it will be a great experience of the church in action.

### Please consider volunteering at the Churchwide Assembly, August 17-23

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. Several hundred 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 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).

# Events & Opportunities

Today



## Picnic on the plaza!

Our fellowship time following the morning service has been expanded today into an old-fashioned Fourth of July picnic. All are welcome free of charge. Hot dogs, brats and burgers will be on the cooking on the grill as we arrive on the North Plaza. The picnic is co-sponsored by our new neighbor, the Hilton Garden Inn and its Great American Grill. Some food at the picnic will be prepared and provided by the Hilton.

In celebration of our new neighborhood partnership, special coupons from the Hilton will be distributed at the picnic: buy one Sunday breakfast buffet and get the second one free! Coupons good through September.



## 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

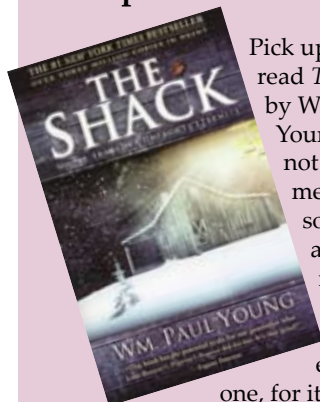
The congregation is invited to a farewell party for our departing Youth and Fam-

ily 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.

### 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. Tickets may be purchased at the Church Office the following Sundays: July 12, 19, and 26. Cost: \$21.

## Join in Pastor Rick's Third Annual Summer Group 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, discussable! 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

Last chance to purchase the book here is today! Copies of *The Shack* are available for purchase at the Church Office, for \$12.00, or check

# Calendar

## 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 -  
Baptism Festival (Sanctuary)  
11:00am A Celebration of Interdependence,  
Dixieland Style (North Plaza)  
6:00pm - 8 - 80 AA (Community Room)  
7:00pm - Evening Prayer with  
Holy Communion (Sanctuary) followed by  
fellowship in South Commons

## Monday, July 6

9:30am - Worship (Fellowship Hall)  
10:00am - Clothes Closet (Restoration Center)  
10:30am Clothes Closet Meal  
(Fellowship Hall)

## Tuesday, July 7

10:15am - Staff Meeting (Room 123)  
5:30pm - Camp Amnicon Board Meeting  
(OFFSITE)  
5:30pm - Docent Ministry Team

## Wednesday, July 8

10:00am - Clothes Closet (Restoration Center)  
6:30pm - Central Cantorei (Choir Room)

## Thursday, July 9

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

## Friday, July 10

12:00pm - Downtown Bible Study (Fireside)

## Saturday, July 11

No Events Scheduled

## Sunday, July 12

7:30am - Upper Room Open for Prayer  
8:30am - Summer Bible Study (Fireside)  
9:00am - Early Bird Coffee (Holy Grounds)  
9:00am - Homecoming Planning Team  
(Room 123)  
10:00am - Holy Communion (Sanctuary)  
11:00am - Fellowship Time - Carillon Concert  
(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

## Daily Bible Readings

Monday, July 6 - Psalm 119:81-88;  
Ezekiel 2:8-3:11; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Tuesday, July 7 - Psalm 119:81-88;  
Jeremiah 16:1-13; James 5:7-12

Wednesday, July 8 - Psalm 119:81-88;  
Jeremiah 16:1-13; John 7:1-9

Thursday, July 9 - Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 2:6-16;  
Colossians 2:1-5

Friday, July 10 - Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 3:1-12;  
Colossians 4:2-18

Saturday, July 11 - Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 4:6-13;  
Luke 1:57-80

Sunday, July 12 - Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13;  
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

## Central Lutheran Church

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