



# The Spirit of Central

News about the mission of Central Lutheran Church  
Downtown Minneapolis

December 24/25, 2011

Joe Bjordal

A colorful illustration of a group of children dressed as angels, standing in a stable. A large red star is visible in the background. The children are wearing various costumes, including robes and headpieces.

Repeat  
the  
Sounding Joy

## Welcome to worship at Central during these Christmas Days!

It is our privilege and joy to have you join in celebrating what God has done in Jesus—love come down! And to be sure, there will be moments that are silent, holy, and even profound. Yet, there remains that song that springs from the heart echoing the angel's declaration: "Joy to the world! The Lord is come!" Here at Central, young and old, rich and poor, male and female— of various race and nation, good singers and mumblers join together to repeat the sounding joy!

That most beloved hymn reminds us of our calling to repeat this good news, in song, word, and deed over and over and over again: God has come in Christ, not to condemn, but to save! This is precisely the "good" that we at Central are in the city for—it is who we are—it is what we are called to do and be in God's world: repeaters of joy in word and deed.

I hope this Christmas season propels you into an entire year in which you never grow weary of repeating, in your own way, this joyous news! Thank you for being with us, and please come again!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Rick".

The Rev. Dr. Richard A. Nelson  
Senior Pastor

*In the photo:* Some of the nearly 60 children and youth who presented "God's Angels," the annual Christmas Pageant on December 18.  
(MORE PHOTOS INSIDE)

# in pictures

*Snapshots of Our Life Together in Mission*



*Kathryn Holum*

Central children and youth presented "God's Angels," the annual Christmas Pageant—including two original songs by Simon Husbands—on Sunday, December 18, followed by the annual Family Christmas dinner.

More than 300 of our neighbors were guests at the Community Christmas Meal on December 19—provided by funds donated to the annual Restoration Center Christmas Appeal!

Thank you!



*Joe Bjordal*



*Joe Bjordal*

The sanctuary Christmas decorating was finished on Friday, December 23, as members of the Floral Guild and the Seasonal Environment Art Team placed more than 200 poinsettia plants—donated by members and friends—which will be delivered to homebound members after worship on December 25.

## Central's quilts and school kits for Lutheran World Relief joined with others to make a significant impact for good in 2011!

Thanks to the compassion and generosity of U.S. Lutherans, LWR sent



355,786  
Quilts



166,427  
School Kits



311,763  
Personal Care Kits



72,610  
Baby Care Kits

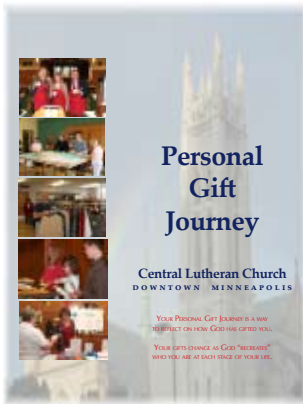


21,234  
Fabric Kits

a total of more than **\$12.6 million of aid** that went to people in need in 26 countries this year.

## Janet Krofta wins quilt raffle!

Janet was the winner of the quilt, offered in a raffle by Central's Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Quilters. The raffle generated \$369, which will purchase two rolls of batting and help LWR offset shipping costs for quilts sent around the world! Thanks to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket!



## Shared ministry empowers congregation to serve

Shared Ministry is based on the theology of the “priesthood of all believers.” God has given each person gifts to be used for the good of the community. When our gifts are used, they develop and grow, but wither and die when not used.

The Shared Ministry Team exists only to support ministry team leaders and teams. It encourages the Central family to identify their gifts, collects and administers a database of skills, gifts and talents to be used in the recruitment process, and matches people to ministries suited to their interests and gifts. Tools and training are offered to leaders as needed for effective leader-

ship. The best recruitment of new team members comes from those who have had a good experience in serving.

Central is blessed with people who live out their faith by offering gifts of time, skills and talents. Nearly 50 teams exist to be the hands and feet of Christ in this community of faith and neighborhood. As a gift-based congregation, folks are encouraged to see a need and fill it based on their passions. Wonderful things are accomplished together when people use their gifts in ministry where there is passion and interest.

It all begins by filling out the Personal Gift Journey—a survey of gifts and interests. Download it at [www.centralmpls.org/serve/index.php](http://www.centralmpls.org/serve/index.php) or pick up a copy at the Church Office. What might you explore in the new year?

## “Year of Water” leaves lasting impact



Even before the “Year of Water” began, the Central Cares for Creation (C3) Ministry Team, started in 2008, had left its mark on the congregation. They instituted a campus-wide recycling program, helped to reduce the use of disposable cups, challenged members and friends to save energy in their homes by converting to fluorescent light bulbs, and facilitated an energy audit of Central’s physical plant.

Then, as work was about to begin to finish a city-mandated project that would redirect rainwater runoff away from the public storm sewer system, the C3 Team saw an opportunity to build awareness about the importance of clean water both within the congregation and in the community. In January they launched “Water: the Source of Life”—a year long effort—and rallied around the so-called Rainleader Project in a way that enabled Central to, in the words of Joyce Anderson, C3 chair, “do it up right.”

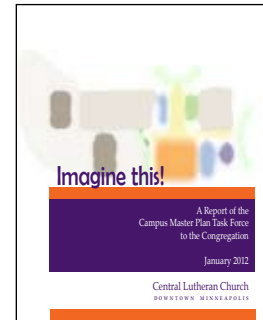
The Team sought and received a \$50,000 grant from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) that would both help pay for the costs of the Rainleader Project and provide funds for educational efforts.

And then, as a fitting complement to an effort aimed at conserving and protecting water in a country where it is abundant, the C3 Team partnered with Central’s Global Mission Ministry Team to provide clean water in a place where it does not exist. A successful effort raised \$5,000 to build a well in rural Ethiopia. When complete, it will dramatically change—for the better—the daily routines of hundreds of people who currently have to walk for hours to accomplish what should be a simple task: getting a drink of clean water.

“This project—the Year of Water—has been a blessing to our congregation,” said Joyce, who reported the C3 Team has heard from many members who have shared additional insights and suggestions. “The awareness created and the interest level of all ages has generated great excitement. Our members are very pleased that Central is managing its stormwater in an environmentally-appropriate manner and caring for God’s creation.”

*In the image:* Interfaith Power and Light recognized Central for our water conservation efforts this year!

## Task Force invites congregation to re-imagine “palette” of the campus



Since being elected by the congregation in January, the Campus Master Plan Task Force has been diligently fulfilling its charge—“to imagine

and discern what opportunities and paths God is calling us to and to assist in leading the congregation in meaningful reflection, consideration and implementation of a viable plan for our entire campus that will help us live into the marvelous future God has in store for us.”

That work has included listening to members and friends of Central and then turning stated hopes and dreams into physical concepts of how the campus can be improved, developed and better-utilized as a tool for ministry today and in the future.

The Task Force will share the results of its work to date, as well as current thoughts about re-imagining the “palette” of the campus, in a report that will be mailed to member homes the first week in January. The report is a prelude to **an informational forum on Sunday, February 5** where an update on the master planning concepts will be shared. Further enhancements to the plan will be made following that presentation—based on further input—before the congregation will be asked to approve the plan sometime in the spring.

### Water Tip

Each weekend during this “Year of Water,” the C3 Team has offered weekly information about water usage and conservation around the world. Here is the final installment:

*Worldwide over a billion people lack access to clean water -- that's one out of every six people on the planet. As a result an estimated 6,000 children die each day due to waterborne disease. Eighty-four percent of water-related deaths are children under the age of 14.*

Source: *Water to Thrive* [www.watertothrive.org](http://www.watertothrive.org)

# — events & opportunities —

## This Weekend

### Help Deliver Poinsettias to Homebound Members Sunday, December 25

Help carry on an annual tradition! Plants and addresses (grouped by geographical regions of the Metro Area) can be picked up following the Christmas Day worship service. —11:00 a.m. in South Commons

## The Coming Week

*The Central Campus will be Closed Monday and Tuesday, December 26 and 27*

Community Ministries Closed Until January 4

## Next Weekend

### New Year's Worship

Saturday, December 31 — 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday, January 1 — 10:00 a.m.

## Looking Ahead

### Men's Fellowship Saturday, January 7

The Rev. Harris Lee will speak on "Crossing the Great Divide Between Sunday and Monday"—about the tendency to separate daily life from church life or, conversely, church life from daily life. How can they intersect? How can every day life influence church life and church life influence daily life? —8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Breakfast available for \$7.00. No reservations necessary.

### Everything You Know About the Bible is Wrong!

#### Adult Education Series January 8, 15 and 22

Karl Jacobson, assistant professor of religion at Augsburg College (and Central member) will present a three-week look at the Bible—think-

ing about God in the Old and New Testaments and in American culture. Weekly topics include "Old God, New God, Red God, Blue God," "587 and All That," and "There is no 'justice' in the Bible. —9:45 a.m. in the Community Room

### Global Mission Forum Sunday, January 8

Dr. Neeraj Ekka, founder of the Navin Doman Theological College, will present "Leadership Development in North India: the Story of the Establishment of the Navin Doman Theological College. Dr. Ekka and his wife, Nijar, formerly associated with the Global Mission Institute at Luther Seminary, serve under the Lutheran Church in North India and are currently on furlough in the United States. —9:45 a.m. in Room 123.

### A Different Kind of Book Club Thursday, January 12

At its January monthly meeting, the book club will discuss *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown. This book brings to light, and places front and center, possibly the most significant event in American history: genocide and displacement of the native inhabitants of what was, or would become the United States of America. —2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in Fireside Lounge. Questions: contact Eve Overby at 612-822-3543.

### Health Forum Sunday, January 15

Kay King, director of the Older Adults Program at the National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota, will present "Gray Matters: Understanding Aging and Depression"—focusing on understanding mental illnesses in older adults, warning signs and risk factors of depression and more. —9:45 a.m. in Room 123.

### Join the OWLS at the Old Log Theater Wednesday, January 18

Join Central's Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) for a performance of "Everybody Loves Opal" at the Old Log Theater in Excelsior. The outing includes lunch at the theater at 12:00 Noon, followed by the play at 1:30 p.m. The motorcoach departs Central at 11:00 a.m. and returns by 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$30. —Reservations taken Sunday, January 8.

### In Recital: Bálint Karosi, organ Sunday, January 22 — 4:00 p.m.

Hear amazing, young and versatile organist Bálint Karosi as he performs on Central's mighty Casavant. A native of Budapest, Hungary, Bálint studied at the Liszt Academy in Budapest, the Conservatoire Supérieure de Genève as well as at the Oberlin Conservatory. In addition to two Master's Degrees, he has been awarded two Prix de Virtuosité as well as an Artist Diploma and a Master of Music in Historical Performance. As a composer, Bálint's works have been programmed around the world. His "Consonances" Concerto for Organ and Orchestra was commissioned for the new organ at the National Concert Hall in Budapest. He is the Director of Music at First Lutheran Church in Boston. —A free public concert. Free Parking. All are welcome!

### Appreciation Sunday January 29 — One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Join in a parish-wide celebration of our gifts in ministry. Following one morning worship service, the ministry team leaders and staff will host a brunch for everyone. —RSVP: 612-870-4416 or receptionist@centralmpls.org.

## Looking Way Ahead

### "Tanzanian Trilogy: People, Places and Promise January 15-27, 2013

Join Pastor Rick and Annette Nelson for a 13-day travel adventure in Tanzania—an East African Republic with natural beauty to explore and friendly people to meet. The group will meet with leaders in the Lutheran church and learn about the promising projects happening through Lutheran World Relief, the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, the Maasai Girls' School and the Arusha Medical Center. The trip will also include days and nights in the grand beauty of game reserves on photo safaris, explore the environs of Mount Kilimanjaro, meet Maasai villagers, recreate on the island of Zanzibar and discover spice farms, sugar sand beaches and exotic sultans' palaces. —The trip is limited to 25 persons. Detailed brochure available in early January.



Your 10th meal is free at  
**American Grill**

Thank you!  
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6 7 8 9 10

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Minneapolis Downtown  
1101 4th Avenue South 612.339.6633  
www.minneapolisdowntown.hgi.com

**Be part of a new tradition:  
Sunday Brunch at the  
Hilton Garden Inn!**

Many members and friends of Central have started a new tradition by having Sunday brunch at the Great American Grill in our neighboring hotel (and corporate partner in caring for persons in need in downtown Minneapolis!)

Sunday Brunch is served from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Special price for Central members and friends: \$8.95  
(REGULAR PRICE: \$12.95)  
New: Purchase 9 meals and the 10th is free!

4th Avenue South at 11th Street 612-339-6633 www.minneapolisdowntown.hgi.com



## Central Lutheran Church

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DOWNTOWN CONGREGATIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS DCEH.ORG

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