



# The Spirit of Central

News about the mission of Central Lutheran Church  
Downtown Minneapolis

Sunday, January 31, 2010

Welcome!

## Central's benevolence gifts bring joy, hope and action

The decision by the congregation of Central Lutheran Church last Sunday to give away \$70,000 to causes outside our congregation is already bringing joy and hope to its recipients. By a unanimous vote, the remaining benevolence funds of the now-completed Forward in Faith campaign—ten percent of the total received—were given in support of Jordan New Life Community Church (\$35,000), the Currie Avenue Partnership (\$20,000), Community Emergency Services (\$10,000) and Camp Noah, a program of Lutheran Social Services (\$5,000).

The funds for Jordan New Life, a multicultural congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in north Minneapolis, will completely pay its mortgage, freeing up monthly funds for its ministries and direct services.



"We are eternally grateful for your wonderful gift to us at Jordan New Life," said the Rev. Terrance Jacob. "Central continues to make it possible for us to continue our challenging ministry."

Central has had a supportive relationship with Jordan New Life for several years and has previously given the congregation over \$56,000 to repair its sanctuary roof.

In a letter to Jacob announcing the gift, Central president Bill Masche said that our congregation wants to "remain involved with Jordan New Life and your mission." In response Jacob said that he was delighted about developing a "meaningful and ongoing relationship."

"Last Sunday I spoke on 'the year of the Lord's favor' and all of us  
*[continued on page three]*

## Pastor Rick Nelson elected chair of Lutheran World Relief

On January 27, the board of directors of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) elected Central's senior pastor, the Rev. Richard A. Nelson, as its chair. Pastor Rick has served on the LWR board since 2008. He called his new service an opportunity to "work intensely with an important and life-changing ministry."



Lutheran World Relief is an international nonprofit organization that works to end poverty and injustice by empowering some of the world's most impoverished communities to help themselves.

With partners in 35 countries,

LWR seeks to promote sustainable development with justice and dignity by helping communities bring about change for healthy, safe and secure lives; engage in Fair Trade; promote peace and reconciliation; and respond to emergencies. Founded in 1945, LWR is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, individuals and parish groups.

"On behalf of Central, I am thrilled at the announcement of Pastor Rick's election as chair of Lutheran World Relief," said Central congregation president Bill Masche. "During the past four years Pastor Rick has shown us what 'giving without boundaries' really means in our mission to those who call Central home and to people literally around the world."

Bill also pointed out that Pastor Rick's service with LWR is yet another chapter in a legacy of leadership beyond our congregation provided by Central's senior pastors for the past 90 years—and a great deal of that related to the wider church.

"The election of Pastor Rick Nelson as chair of the LWR board underscores Rick's strong leadership skills and the deep and historic connections between the ministry and mission of Central Lutheran Church, the ELCA, and Lutheran World Relief," said the Rev. Mark Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

*In the photo: Pastor Rick Nelson (right) and the Rev. John Nunes, president of Lutheran World Relief, at LWR headquarters in Baltimore on January 27.*