



The Spirit of Central

News about the mission of Central Lutheran Church
Downtown Minneapolis

April 9/10, 2011

Take the Task Force survey!

Available online at www.centralmpls.org/imagine

Computers and paper copies available in Fireside Lounge

A very important every-member survey—the Campus Master Plan Task Force’s first effort in engaging the congregation in “a prayerful process of discovery, listening, discussion, creative imagination and visioning”—is now available.

The preferred way to take the survey is online from home or office. It is also possible to take the survey at church before and after worship services on Sundays, April 10 and 17, and Wednesdays, April 13 and 20. Computer terminals and paper copies of the survey are available in Fireside Lounge.

The survey has been prepared to gather information in a “measurable, discernible and reportable way about Central members’ perceptions, imagination and preferences for our future as a congregation over the course of the next ten years,” said Task Force chair Bill Masche and Pastor Rick Nelson in a letter that arrived in member homes this past week.

The survey, which takes only 7 to 10 minutes to complete, will provide critical information as the congregation begins to envision changes and improvements to the campus to be accomplished—in phases or as a one-time project—by 2019/2020, Central’s centennial year.



The survey will close on Thursday, April 21.

“This is a very important opportunity for our members to ‘weigh in’ on the future of Central,” said Bill. “The information gathered through the survey will shape the work of the Task Force over the next seven months. It is very important that we hear from as many members as possible.”

[continued on page three]

In the photo: Members of the Task Force are pictured on April 9, just before setting out to explore every room on the campus: (from left) Paul Troselius, Rebecca Sundquist, Bill Masche, Ron Fiscus, Sally Carlson-Bancroft Franklin Dietrich, Deborah Bauknight, Pastor Rick Nelson, Consultant Sarah Strickland and Kristin Schoepfoerster.

Enjoy a new Easter Brunch

April 10 is last Sunday to sign up; telephone reservations taken until April 14

In order to fulfill a desire by Central’s youth to participate more fully in a meaningful Easter (in worship and service in the processional corps and communion distribution), Easter Brunch will not be served at Central. In years past the Easter Brunch has been a huge undertaking for our youth, parents and the ministry team, for which many have been grateful.

Our good neighbors at the Hilton Garden Inn have stepped forward to offer a new option for Central’s Easter Brunch and one with an even expanded menu! They will open the hotel’s restaurant on Easter morning just for those attending Central and donate a portion of the proceeds to Central’s Monday Community Meal, a ministry in which the hotel staff has previously become engaged with, helping to serve those in need in our neighborhood.

ings, scheduled around the three morning worship services (6:00, 8:30 and 11:00). Brunch will be served at 7:15, 7:45, 9:45, 10:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.



Each seating is limited to 50 persons and reservations are required.

The menu includes made-to-order eggs and omelets; French toast; waffles; fresh fruit; granola and yogurt; oatmeal, ham; breakfast potatoes; and beverages, including coffee, tea, and juices. Mimosas and other drinks are available for an additional charge.

The cost is \$12.95 per person.

The hotel will provide shuttle service for those who are unable or do not wish to walk.

Easter Brunch at the Hilton Garden Inn will be served in five seat-

To reserve, stop by the Church Office or call 612-870-4416.

— in pictures —

Snapshots of Our Life Together in Mission



Preparing for First Communion

Several of Central's children gathered on Saturday, April 2 with Pastors Kristen Jacobson and D. Foy Christopherson to prepare for receiving Holy Communion for the first time on Maundy Thursday, April 21. Pastor C took the class "behind the scenes" in the sacristy.

Help "grow" Central's Easter garden!



A Central tradition of offering members and friends the opportunity to honor or remember loved ones by contributing to our Easter sanctuary decorations continues this year.

To purchase an Easter plant, pick up a form at the the Floral Guild Table (in the Library Hallway) on Sunday, April 10. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Forms (also available at the Church Office and on Central's website) and a check (made payable to "Floral Guild") may also be mailed to Lillian Weiss, 2535 Aquila Avenue North, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

The plants will be distributed to our home-bound members following worship services on Easter Day, April 24.

Sign a birthday card for Lucille Baskin!

Central member Lucille Baskin will celebrate her 100th birthday on April 18. A large birthday card has been prepared and we'd like to fill it with signatures. Please stop by South Commons and sign the card the next two weekends.



Lucille, who joined Central in 1924, plans to be in church on Palm Sunday, April 17.

Photos by Joe Bjordal



Again, offering the gift of hospitality

For the second year in a row Central was the venue for the Sustainable Communities Conference, presented by the Alliance for Sustainability, which brought hundreds to the campus. The Central Cares for Creation Team was on hand to serve as hosts, including (from left to right across both photo) Lois Steer, Janet Freitag, Larry Peterson, Shanti Austvold, Judy Bogard and Joyce Anderson. Legendary journalist Don Shelby, pictured above, was a keynote speaker!



Rehearsing for Saturday night

Carolyn Diamond, principal musician for the Saturday evening service has arranged for some special musical offerings during Lent (see back page),

including playing her flute. Carolyn is pictured here rehearsing for the Saturday, April 9 service, accompanied by pianist Kris Stedje.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, April 11 — Psalm 143; 1 Kings 17:17-24; Acts 20:7-12
Tuesday, April 12 — Psalm 143; 2 Kings 4:18-37; Ephesians 2:1-10
Wednesday, April 13 — Psalm 143; Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41
Thursday, April 14 — Psalm 31:9-16; 1 Samuel 16:11-13; Philippians 1:21-30
Friday, April 15 — Psalm 31:9-16; Job 13:13-19; Philippians 1:21-30
Saturday, April 16 — Psalm 31:9-16; Lamentations 3:55-66; Mark 10:32-34
Sunday, April 17 — Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14 — 27:66

Water Bottles - \$4.00



The C3 Team has water bottles for sale. The proceeds will support Central's many conservation efforts.
 —available in Fellowship Hall on Sunday

Central Lutheran Church

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA www.elca.org

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FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS NEWS@CENTRALMPLS.ORG

Campus Master Plan Task Force [continued from page one]

The Task Force met for its fourth working session on April 9—spending much of the morning exploring every room on the campus. The goals of the experience, as designed by consultant Sarah Strickland, were to learn more about the building and grounds “than we know right now;” to “listen” to the heartbeat and song of the buildings and grounds; to discover and reflect on how each of us carry God’s aspirations for Central and how the buildings and grounds can help make these aspirations possible; and to share insights

as a group to inspire the Task Force’s journey going forward.

Even for those Task Force members who thought they knew the place well, the experience was an eye-opening one.

Deborah Bauknight said she was struck by the “sacredness” of the sanctuary and the “utility feel” of the rest of the spaces. Rebecca Sundquist said that “the spaces don’t hang together very well” and

that we have “a ton of real estate” that we don’t use. She suggested that we don’t need as much space as we currently have, but that we need “better quality” space. “We have an extroverted sanctuary, but introverted entrances,” she said.

Several Task Force members, including Franklin Dietrich and Paul Troselius, said that access is a problem—including no interior wayfinding signage—with three buildings that have been “pieced” together. Some felt that the exterior, with virtually no signage, suggests we are unwelcoming and does not reflect the vibrancy of the congregation. To which Pastor Rick Nelson suggested we should be bold and create something that “screams to the world that we are alive and well and ‘in’ the 21st Century—not the fifties, when the Education Building and Parish House were constructed.

“I thought I had a grip on this,” said Task Force Chair Bill Masche, “but I really had no idea how large the place is.” He suggested we need new spaces that tie better to the sanctuary. “I really think we are taking on an obligation to compete where the founders intended, in the context of today.”

The meeting closed as the Task Force followed Pastor Rick to the rear balcony of the sanctuary (pictured above) where he encouraged the group to adopt a “balcony view.” He said that what is planned should not just be “fixing and patching things” but connect a bold vision for mission with bold plans for facilities that serve the big picture, “just as twelve Norwegians did when they planned this,” he said as he gestured to the sanctuary, which all Task Force members agree is the “crown jewel” of the Central campus.

Follow the work of the Task Force
at www.centralmpls.org/imagine

Send comments via email to taskforce@centralmpls.org
or use the Comment Box at the Church Office



Youth and Family Ministry Happenings

Education Opportunities on Sunday Mornings

- All classes run from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.
- Ages 3 to 5th grade begin in Room 222
- Confirmation with Pastor Kristen
- High School Youth in Youth Room

Hygiene Kit Donations Accepted

Sunday School children are collecting financial donations to contribute to the cost of products that create hygiene kits. Each kit cost \$5.00 to put together. Please find our table in Fellowship Hall to make a donation.

Feed My Starving Children

Saturday, April 16, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Ages 3rd grade and older are welcome to bring a parent along and pack meals for hungry children around the world. This is an easy, fun way to serve others and experience an afternoon of giving. Please meet at the site in Eagan at 1:45 p.m. NO RSVP necessary, just come!

First Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.

All children who took the First Communion Class with Pastor Kristen are invited to receive Holy Communion for the first time at worship on Maundy Thursday. Please come and celebrate with our children.

Grand Slam - Middle School Event

Saturday, April 16, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Participate in packing meals for hungry children at Feed My Starving Children and then head to Grand Slam for laser tag, mini golf, crazy kars, arcade games, pizza and pop. Cost: \$10.00 per person (assistance available). Parent drivers needed. RSVP with Greer by April 14.

iPhone Photo by Joe Bjordal



Each weekend during this “Year of Water,” the Central Cares for Creation Ministry Team is offering a brief bit of information or tip about water.

“Only 2.5 percent of the water on earth is freshwater, and most freshwater is tied up in glaciers, snow and ice fields, or deep groundwater reserves. The water we use for drinking and bathing, for growing food, and for industry comes from rainwater, rivers, lakes, soil moisture, shallow groundwater reservoirs or artificial lakes. These sources make up less than 1 percent of the world’s freshwater supply, or less than 0.02 percent of the planet’s total water.”

—Source: *Earth’s Water Crisis* by Rob Bowden



Lent, the forty days plus six Sundays before Easter, has been observed for centuries as a special time of self-examination and penitence. It is a time for concentration on fundamental values and priorities. Several opportunities are being offered here at Central this year to assist in keeping a Holy Lent.

Wednesdays

Our mid-week series, "Walking Wet" is offered at 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 and features a simple meal, an education time—exploring images of baptism—led by Pastor C and "Prayers Around the Font."

The theme for April 13 IS "River of Life, oasis, well, navel"

Saturdays

Corporate Confession and Forgiveness will be the form of the 5:30 p.m. service during Lent. Musician Carolyn Diamond has arranged for special music during the season.

On April 16 Ron Fiscus will sing a familiar gospel hymn.

Sundays

Services of Holy Communion are at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. The preaching theme is "The Journey of Lent: From River to Tears."

Pastor Rick is leading a Bible Study called "Where is God in My Suffering" at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room.

Education for all ages: 9:45 a.m.

— other events/opportunities

This Weekend

SUNDAY COFFEE HOSTS: CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Peace with Justice Forum Sunday, April 10

The Joint Peace with Justice Committee of the Minneapolis and St. Paul Area Synods presents this monthly forum. On April 10 there will be a panel discussion of a resolution that will come before the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly titled "Lutheran Youth, the Call to War and the Call from Jesus." —12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Lunch available for \$7.00. No reservations necessary. All are welcome.

The Coming Week

Central Meetings, Events and Community Service

Monday, April 11

Community Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Clothes Closet Opens, 11:00 a.m.
Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study, 12:00 Noon
Men's Bible Study, 12:00 Noon

Tuesday, April 12

General Staff Meeting, 10:15 a.m.
Heading Home Central Team, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13

(LENTEN PROGRAM OFFERINGS IN PURPLE)
Heritage Ministry Team, 9:00 a.m.
Clothes Closet opens, 10:00 a.m.
Lenten Soup Lunch, 11:15 a.m.
Lenten Education Session, 11:45 a.m.
Prayer Around the Font, 12:30 p.m.
Worship, Environment and Art, 2:00 p.m.
Lenten Appetizers, 5:30 p.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.
Cantorei Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Lenten Education Session, 6:15 p.m.
Central Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 14

Fiscal and Property Committee, 7:00 a.m.
Open AA Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
Augsburg Nursing Women's Group, 10:30 a.m.
Clothes Closet Opens, 1:00 p.m.
A Different Kind of Book Club, 2:00 p.m.
Central Choristers, 5:15 p.m.

Friday, April 15

Foundation Legacy Dinner, 5:00 p.m. (Hilton Garden Inn)

A Different Book Club

Thursday, April 14

This new book club meets the second Thursday of each month from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. The group is currently reading about China and on April 14 will discuss *China Road* by National Public Radio correspondent Rob Gifford. Please join us to learn more about China and its development in the past ten years. For more information contact Eve Overby at eveoverby@msn.com or 612-822-3542.

Next Weekend

Saturday, April 16

OWLS Depart for Chanhassen Dinner Theater, 10:30 a.m.
Prayer Vigil, 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Youth and Family Event, 2:00 p.m.

Prayer Vigil

Saturday, April 16

The Prayer, Spirituality and Meditation Ministry Team presents a Lenten Prayer Vigil: "Praying into Holy Week." There will be several prayer stations set up in the Sanctuary. The Vigil will run from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come for part; come for all. All are welcome!

Palm Sunday Procession and Founders Day

Sunday, April 17

Next Sunday both morning worship services (8:30 and 11:00) will begin in South Commons, the starting point for the Procession with Palms up Third Avenue, onto the Plaza and through the Great North Doors to the Sanctuary.

Palm Sunday is also celebrated as Founders' Day, commemorating the first worship service of Central Lutheran Church on Palm Sunday, 1919. Carrying on a decades-old tradition, Congregation Council President-Elect Christopher Lyle will read "The Founders' Day Proclamation" in the worship services.

Looking Ahead

Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Breakfast, Saturday, May 7

Cathy Wurzer, host of "Morning Edition" on Minnesota Public Radio and co-host of "Al-

manac" on Twin Cities Public Television, will speak at the 11th annual Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Breakfast, presented by the Circle of Friends at the Golden Valley Country Club. Invitations to all Central women have been mailed. Buy your tickets early to get the best seats. Reservations will be limited to 235 persons. Tickets may be purchased through the mail, using the form in the invitation or purchased in Fellowship Hall on Sundays April 10, 17 and May 1.

Men's Fellowship

Saturday, May 7

Jeff Swenson, athletic director at Augsburg College, will be the May speaker for the Men's Fellowship. Swenson is also the former Augsburg wrestling coach and winner of many national championships and was NCAA Division Three Wrestling Coach of the Year several times. The breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. Cost: \$6.00. No reservation necessary.

Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, May 8 - 4:00 p.m.

Sarah Kwak, acting concertmaster of the Minnesota Orchestra, performs Glazunov's virtuosos showpiece on a program that opens with Brahms' intense Tragic Overture and concludes with Leopold Stokowski's brilliant and rarely-performed orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. William Schrickel conducts this respected community orchestra founded here at Central 29 years ago. —A free concert. All are welcome!

New Circle Informational Meeting

Tuesday, May 10 - 7:00 p.m.

Wanted: 16 new circle members! It's time to begin another women's circle for fun, food, and friendship. RSVP: Shirley Teig (763-478-0340 or Judith Stone (651-690-8950).

**Help
Wanted**

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 23 to help prepare the Sanctuary for Easter services.

Volunteers are also needed to deliver Easter plans to homebound members following the 11:00 service on April 24. To help, contact Karen Knox at kknnox@centralmpls.org or 612-767-9211.