



# The Spirit of Central

News about the mission of Central Lutheran Church  
Downtown Minneapolis

December 4/5, 2010

## In Advent we wait with the family of God

*Third in a Series*

by Pastor Kristen Jacobson

As we enter into these awe inspiring and mysterious days of waiting for Christmas I am reminded of the way that we enter into the New Testament. Matthew starts at the front of the Gospels with "an account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham." Matthew begins by connecting the dots for us; showing us the family of God out of which Christ was born. For Matthew the mystery unfolds in the Good News and that good news begins with family. And so it is that we at Central can enter into this new church year, this new season of waiting with a sense of what it means to be in this family.

You are not only a member of a church. You are part of the family of God that waits for God. You, with these Christians in these pews and with all of God's children that surround you in this season wait for the fulfillment of his promise. We are the family of God. The children here are part of your family of faith. And I invite you to make certain that you wouldn't miss their contribution to our family celebration this year. Central's Children will be offering their voices and energetic presence as our Children's Choir sings on Dec. 19th in worship, and as our entire Sunday School presents this year's Christmas Program at 4:00 that evening.

We also meet other children of God, members of our family that are waiting for the healing of their lives during this season. And so as we extend loving gifts of presence, clothing and meals in this coldest and

darkest time of the year I invite you also to come and worship with these brothers and sisters in Christ. Join us as we gather around the word of God and the promises of Christ each Monday morning at 10:00. Come and worship with this part of your family and feel free to stay and share your faith over lunch with someone. You may be amazed and how richly blessed you are by making this connection with a family member you have not yet met.

I would also invite you to reconnect with your own family of origin. To engage deeply in what it means to be a daughter or a brother or a spouse or a parent this season. I challenge you to give of your self—beyond those gifts that come from the shopping center. Let a few people off the hook. Remind a few people how much you love them. Hug, call, write and visit those you love. Be the reconciled family of God to the greatest degree you are able.

And throughout all of this time that you are connecting with others, pray. Connect yourself to God our Father who sent us Christ our brother. Be a child of God that not only waits for his promises but leans on God's amazing power and grace. Be a child of God that is captured by the mystery of a love that came to live among us. Wrap your life in prayer this season and live in the wonder of what it means to be a child of God in this big family. Realize that you are never alone in your waiting.

*"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Matt.1:21-23*



## Restoration Center Christmas Appeal underway

*Targeting the needs of 30-40 families; gifts received through December 25*



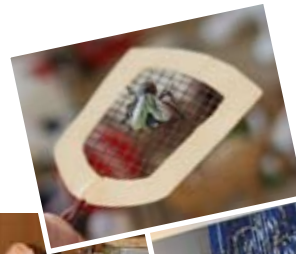
The annual Restoration Center Christmas Appeal for special over-and-above regular giving is now underway with some changes this year, according to Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, Central's Director of Community Ministries.

"In the past we have collected monetary donations specifically for toys to distribute to families in need. This year we are shifting the paradigm a bit as we believe we can do better for families during this difficult time with the funds entrusted to us," he said. "This year funds received will supply food for the traditional Christmas meal and provide some winter gear and gifts for families. But a significant portion of the funds will provide family housing and financial assistance—an effort directly aimed at preventing homelessness."

Special over-and-above regular giving for this focused Christmas appeal should be noted for "Restoration Center" and may be placed anytime in the offering plates, delivered or mailed to the Church Office, or made online, using Visa or MasterCard, at [www.centralmpls.org](http://www.centralmpls.org). (Read a longer article about this appeal in the November 20/21 *Spirit of Central*, available in the information racks, or at [www.centralmpls.org](http://www.centralmpls.org).)

# — in pictures —

*Snapshots of Our Life Together in Mission*



## Deck the halls (and rooms)!



Many people have been busy this past week decorating the Central campus for the holidays—all done this week in preparation for welcoming 10,000 people to the 31st Annual Augsburg College Advent Vespers! The Fine Art Ministry Team (left) has presented their annual gift of two themed Christmas Trees—"Angels" in Fellowship Hall and "Noah's Ark" in South Commons. The "Noah" tree, celebrating "all God's creatures," includes an ornament of a house fly sitting on a flyswatter (top), a gift from Bob Boldt. The Christmas Tea Committee and friends (center) paused for lunch in the midst of decoration Fellowship Hall on Tuesday. And, on Thursday, Pastor C (right) turned the North and South Commons into a winter wonderland by installing tall birch trees and lights.



## 31 years and counting

By the time this issue of *The Spirit* is read on Sunday morning, December 5, Central will have played host to the 31st annual Augsburg College Advent Vespers and nearly 10,000 guests! Five Vespers services were preceded by three large-scale rehearsals this past week. At left Vespers artistic director Dr. Peter Hendrickson conducts the Augsburg Masterworks Chorale in rehearsal on December 2. At right, Peter and the Rev. Dave Wold, Augsburg Campus Pastor—the two chief collaborators of the production—confer prior to a rehearsal.



## In the spirit of the season

Many other activities related to the Advent and Christmas seasons were underway this past week as well. At left, the steering committee for Central's Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) concluded a planning meeting on December 2 by preparing hand-written Christmas cards for all of Central's homebound members.

And, the Restoration Center and its Clothes Closet was bustling with activity as increased holiday donations were processed and prepared for distribution. Longtime Clothes Closet volunteers Edith Adams (left) and John Threet helped sort and prepare sheets, blankets and other household items on November 30.

*Clothes Closet photo by Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer Other Photos by Jos. Bjordal*

## Daily Bible Readings

**Monday, December 6** — Psalm 21; Isaiah 24:1-16a; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12  
**Tuesday, December 7** — Psalm 21; Isaiah 41:14-20; Romans 15:14-21  
**Wednesday, December 8** — Psalm 21; Genesis 15:1-18; Matthew 12:33-37  
**Thursday, December 9** — Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18  
**Friday, December 10** — Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18  
**Saturday, December 11** — Psalm 146:5-10; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18  
**Sunday, December 12** — Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

## Central Lutheran Church

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

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FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS [NEWS@CENTRALMPLS.ORG](mailto:NEWS@CENTRALMPLS.ORG)

## Grant sought to assist with rainwater detention project; educate congregation, community about water

Central is involved in a multi-year project—mandated by a change in the Minneapolis City Code—to redirecting storm water runoff from the sanitary sewer system to storm sewers and an on-site storm water detention system. The project was slated to be completed last summer, but difficulties arose when information about storm sewer and utility lines provided by the City of Minneapolis did not match what was actually found underneath 4th Avenue. That final phase of the project had to be halted while other solutions for re-directing water runoff from the Sanctuary roof were explored.

What has resulted from further study is the proposed development of an underground water detention pond that will not only keep the rainwater out of the sanitary sewer system (as mandated), but also out of the city storm sewer system and thus out of the Mississippi River—a model project that has the Central Caring for Creation (C3) Ministry Team excited.

The C3 Team, along with the Fiscal and Property Committee, have applied for a \$50,000 grant from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. The funds, if received, would be used to offset the \$109,120 cost of creating the underground detention pond and educating the congregation and the city about water appreciation, water conservation and storm water management.

In the grant request, the C3 Team proposes launching “Water: the Source of Life,” a year-long series of congregational and public educational efforts.



“A variety of audiences will be targeted for training and education,” said the C3 Team in the grant proposal. “Throughout the year, Central members of all ages will be presented with educational offerings and events. In addition, Central will reach out to other urban congregations and its neighbors who live in nearby homes and condominiums with information and educational offerings.”

“This will be an opportunity for Central to show the community that we do indeed care for God’s creation,” said Joyce Anderson, chair of the C3 Ministry Team, which encourages the congregation to “respect, conserve and care for God’s creation” under the motto “Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Rejoice.”

Upon completion of the project, in the fall of 2011, the C3 Team proposes unveiling interpretive signage along the heavily-traveled Third Avenue (adjacent to the location of the underground detention pond at Third Avenue and 14th Street—now Central’s private street leading to the parking lot and ramp).

“With this storm water management project, Central will model for its neighbors and other urban congregations that it cares in word and deed for God’s creation and intends to be a good steward of God’s precious gift of water,” said the Team in the proposal.

The Fiscal and Property Committee has selected Underground Utilities, Inc., of Roseville, as the contractor for the project. Construction is planned to be carried out in July and August 2011, which is a period of the lowest use of the parking lot and ramp.

## Call for nominations: Campus Master Plan Task Force

At a special meeting on October 31, members of Central Lutheran Church formally established the procedure for electing a task force that will—during the first six months of 2011—lead the congregation in “a prayerful process of discovery, listening, discussion, creative imagination and visioning” regarding Central’s physical plant. The Task Force will propose improvements and changes to the campus that should be accomplished by 2020, either in total or in phases.

Nominations for the Task Force are being received through the month of November. Detailed information about Task Force, including a form for self-nomination or nomination of others, is available at the Church Office or on Central’s website at [www.centralmpls.org](http://www.centralmpls.org). Members of the Task Force will be elected at a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 16, 2011.

## Central’s Christmas Poinsettias —be part of the tradition!

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

To purchase a Christmas poinsettia, complete the form inserted in this issue of *The Spirit* and bring it with your donation of \$10 per plant—made payable to “Floral Guild”—to the Floral Guild table in Fellowship Hall after both worship services on December 5 and 12. Or, mail this form to Lillian Weiss, 2535 Aquila Avenue North, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

The plants will be distributed to our shut-in members following worship services on December 25 and 26.

**Help  
Wanted**

### Readers

If you are interested in serving as a Reader in worship, please visit the Reader table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday December 5. New readers are welcome. Novices can receive training. For more information contact Clarence Smith at [clarancesmith@aol.com](mailto:clarancesmith@aol.com) or 612-374-3554.

### Library

Watch for major changes in the Library. In the meantime, help is needed. Consider working in the new children’s library to be located in the Parents’ Lounge in the Education Building. Small jobs are helpful and we are grateful for any amount of time. Please contact Librarian Elizabeth Shelver.

### Security

Business Administrator David Alexander would like to assemble a team of persons with a security, police, military or other law enforcement background to assist with security needs during special events at Central. If interested, contact David at [dalexander@centralmpls.org](mailto:dalexander@centralmpls.org) or 612-767-9220.

# — events/opportunities —

## This Weekend

**NO SATURDAY WORSHIP DUE TO AUGSBURG ADVENT VESPERS**  
**Sunday Worship — 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.**  
*Children, youth and adult education, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.*  
**Sunday fellowship/coffee times:**  
**8:00, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.; 12:00 Noon**  
*(Various locations — check welcome monitor)*

### “Discover the Promises of God in the Psalms”

**Adult Education Opportunity**  
**Sunday, 9:45 a.m.**

Pastor Kristen Jacobson will present the **second in a four-part Advent series**. The Psalms make up the “book of praises” within our Book of Faith. Within these poetic communal works are words of great promise—promises that lead us to know God and God’s peace, love and joy. Come and discover the hope of this season through the ancient words of the followers who have led us to faith and lead us to Christ. —**9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Community Room**

### He Qi posters for sale

**Sunday, December 5**

Central’s Fine Art Ministry Team will be selling signed posters of prints by the famed religious artist in Fellowship Hall between services—perfect for Christmas gifts!

## The Coming Week

### Central Meetings, Events and Community Service

*CONSULT MONITOR OR OFFICE FOR LOCATIONS*

#### Monday, December 6

**Community Worship, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Clothes Closet Opens, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.**

#### Tuesday, December 7

**General Staff Meeting, 10:15 a.m.**  
**Floral Guild Christmas Luncheon, 12:00 Noon**

#### Wednesday, December 8

**Heritage Ministry Team, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Clothes Closet Opens, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Silver Bells Rehearsal, 11:45 a.m.**  
**OWLS Christmas Luncheon, 12:00 Noon**  
**Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Cantorei Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.**  
**Central Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.**

#### Thursday, December 9

**Open AA Meeting, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Nursing Center Women’s Group, 10:30 a.m.**  
**Clothes Closet Opens, 1:00 p.m.**  
**Central Choristers, 5:15 p.m.**

### OWLS Christmas Luncheon

**December 8, 12:00 Noon**

Join Central’s Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) for the annual Christmas Luncheon and Program on Wednesday, December 8 in Fellowship Hall. The Minneapolis-based women’s choral group “Barrissima” will perform as will Central’s “Silver Bells,” directed by Jane Lien. Cost: \$12.00. Tickets still available at the OWLS Table following both worship services Sunday, December 5.

## Next Weekend

#### Saturday, December 3

**Cantata Rehearsal, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Coalition for Grief Support, 9:30 a.m.**  
**8th Annual Christmas Tea, 2:00 p.m.**

#### Saturday Worship — 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday Worship — 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.**  
*Children, youth and adult education, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.*

### Advent Cantata

**Sunday, December 12,**  
**8:30 and 11:00 a.m.**

The Central Choir and members of the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra will present Gallus Zeiler’s setting of the *Magnificat* at both worship services. The performance will feature solos by Central Choir section leaders Susan Troselius (soprano), Rochelle Milbrath (alto), Roy Heilman (tenor) and Thom Dreeze (bass).

### Global Mission Forum

**Adult Education Opportunity**  
**Sunday, December 12, 9:45 a.m.**

The Rev. John Hutton, Student and Volunteer Development Director of the Hospitality Center for Chinese (HCC), will present “A Plan for Those Who Understand the Times . . . An Opportunity from God Not to be Missed.” He will explain the HCC’s mission of sharing Christ’s love through hospitality to the nearly 2,000 Chinese students, scholars and their families at the University of Minnesota. **9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in Room 123**

## Looking Ahead

### Advent Prayer Vigil

**Saturday, December 18,**  
**9:00 am to 2:00 p.m.**

Contemplate the reason for the season. In this busy time spend some quiet moments in Central’s sanctuary. A variety of contemplative prayer resources in several prayer stations will be available to guide your experience. Make this a special gift to yourself for reflection and medi-

tation in this Advent season. *Receive additional information and signup for a specific time in Fellowship Hall Sundays, December 5 and 12.*

### OWLS to Visit Plymouth Playhouse

**Thursday, January 13**

Join Central’s Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) for a performance of “Away in the Basement—A Church Basement Ladies Christmas” at the Plymouth Playhouse. Cost: \$34.00, includes buffet lunch. Learn more and make reservations at the OWLS Table on Sundays December 5, 12 and 19.

## Youth and Family Ministry Happenings

### High School Youth:

**“Stepping Up on Sundays”**  
**9:45 to 10:45 a.m.**

Enjoy donuts and juice with Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer and then head to the Restoration Center with Rolf to live out your faith in service to others: research job openings, sort clothing, prepare the Clothes Closet for the week to come. Enjoy a time in the Bible, in service and in fellowship every Sunday!

### High School Youth:

**Urban Immersion Service Weekend**  
**December 10 to 12**

Come and serve in the Twin Cities with your friends. This is a weekend of service and faith-forming experiences. *Reserve your place with Greer by Sunday, December 5.*

### Children’s Christmas Pageant and Family Dinner

**“Camels’ Tales”**

**Sunday, December 19, 4:00 p.m.**

It’s the story of Jesus’ birth as told from the perspective of the Wise Men’s camels—a comical tale about the adventure the Magi have following the star to the stable. Directed, staged and costumed by Sara Gunch. Original music composed and lead by Simon Husband. Script from Augsburg Fortress “SPARK” rotation curriculum, adapted by Greer Cherney. Whether you have children or not, please come and support Central’s children!

*The pageant is followed by the annual Family Christmas Dinner at 5:00. Everyone is welcome to enjoy this festive meal together. Free tickets for the dinner are available at the Church Office until December 19.*

### Clothes Closet Needs Winter Clothes!

The Clothes Closet, one of Central’s Restoration Center ministries, is in need of donations of winter clothing of all kinds—coats, gloves, hats, scarves and more. Donations may be delivered to South Commons during normal business hours.