



The Spirit of Central

News about the mission of Central Lutheran Church
Downtown Minneapolis

Easter 2011 — April 24

Welcome!

Thanks for joining in the celebration this morning! I hope you find your time with us is meaningful, well-spent and nourishing for wherever you are on your spiritual walk. We are really glad that you chose to be here today and hope that you will come again whenever you can!

As Christians, we remember during these spring days the resurrection of Jesus and lay claim to this glimpse of our future. But there is a dimension to resurrection which is “now” —how we see the world, the difference we choose to make in it, the source of our hope, and our inspiration in rising to each new day and opportunity in life. Resurrection is not just about a day in the future —hopefully far future—when life as we know it ends, but it changes everything now: why we get out of bed in the morning, what matters to us, what guides us, and what brings meaning and purpose to our daily lives.

Every dead end in our life where a way is found—resurrection! Every stone rolled away and burden that passes—resurrection! Every addition managed, every relationship restored—resurrection!

If a Risen Jesus is to mean anything at all for this world, we must sort out what it means to be resurrected now—right now!

I wish for you a meaningful season of Easter as together we ponder God's great things!

The Rev. Richard A. Nelson
Senior Pastor

Scenes from
Palm Sunday,
April 17, 2011

Photos by Joe Bjordal



A process of discovery, listening, discussion, creative imagination and visioning

The Campus Master Plan Task Force is at work!

Elected at a special meeting of the congregation in January, seven members of Central are now at work with an aggressive meeting schedule and process that will engage the congregation in re-envisioning the physical plant as support for mission. It's a process that Pastor Rick Nelson calls "a pivotal moment" in the life of Central.

The Task Force was elected to lead the congregation in a "prayerful process of discovery, listening, discussion, creative imagination and visioning." It will offer for consideration by the congregation a master plan for our campus that correlates facility needs with accomplishing Central's stated mission objectives. The group will propose improvements and changes to the facilities that should be accomplished—in total or in phases—by 2019/2020, Central's centennial year. The group will make its recommendation in November.



Members of the Task Force are Sally Carlson-Bancroft, Deborah Bauknight, Franklin Dietrich, Ron Fiscus, Bill Masche, Rebecca Jorgenson

Sundquist and Paul Troselius. Senior Pastor Rick Nelson, Congregation Council President Kristin Schoephoerster, and Business Administrator David Alexander are advisory members of the group. The process is being facilitated by Sarah Strickland and Kent Eklund, of the consulting group Cincinnatus, Inc.

The first phase of the process—a survey about perceptions, imagination and preferences for the future as a congregation over the course of the next ten years—concluded on April 21. More than 20% of Central members participated in the survey, which will provide useful information as the Task Force begins to envision future facility needs. Other opportunities to give input to the Task Force will come through personal interviews, group listening sessions and special activities being planned for Sunday, May 22.

The seven-month process will include the engagement of an architect to help develop different scenarios for the campus and an assessment for a capital fundraising campaign. The Task Force will make its recommendation to the congregation in November.

"There is nothing more vital for Central's future, and no better way for us to move into our Centennial, than this season and process of discernment," said Pastor Rick. "I am very excited for the leading of the Spirit for the Task Force and congregational process we are undertaking. This is a pivotal moment for our journey into God's preferred future for us—an opportunity to listen to one another, this city, and God's world for what God is doing among us, the ministry opportunities that lie immediately ahead and the vision for the facility tools we will need to accomplish it."

What role does your faith play in daily life?

The Vibrant Congregations Project wants to know!

Central has been chosen to participate in Luther Seminary's "Vibrant Congregations Project," specifically in a research effort on vocation—how a congregation works to integrate its members' faith in their daily lives and how it connects its people with God's work in the world. Central was chosen as one of nine congregations to participate in the project—out of 175 congregations nominated from around the country.

"The study we are now undertaking is designed, through listening and learning, to understand our current attitudes and beliefs regarding faith and how our faith affects our daily lives," said the Rev. Lloyd Thorsen, co-chair of Central's team for the project, along with Pastor Rick Nelson.

The first component of the project is conducting a survey which takes only 10 to 15 minutes to complete. The survey began in early March and will continue through the first week in May.

The survey is available online at www.centralmpls.org (the preferred method) or on paper copies available at the Church Office.

Central's team for the project, which also includes Barbara Brown, Dr. James Hart, Ruth and Myron Just, Harris Lee, Annette Nelson and Bobbie Spradley, are also conducting personal interviews with members of the congregation.

"Our goal is to continue moving forward as a pilgrim church seeking to learn and understand how we can better proclaim God's love in a constantly-changing, ever more complex and stressful world," said Lloyd.



Feed My Starving Children

For the past two years, an important component of the youth and family ministry has been service days at Feed My Starving Children, an international ministry, based in the Twin Cities, that sends food to hungry children in 67 countries. In a typical two-hour work session Central's team can produce food packets that will feed thousands of children. Helping create food packs on Saturday, April 2 were:

—**back row:** Simon Husbands, Janet Husbands, Cathy Egan, Paul Peterson, Pastor Kristen Jacobson, Hanna Jacobson, Jaclyn Heim, Ebenezer Laryea and Thomas Egan;

—**middle row:** Neil DeVries Smith, Henry Husbands, Philip Landmark Masih, Mark Peterson, Janice Peterson and

Austin Stanley; and — **front row:** Greer Cherney, Jordan Page, Freddy Husbands, Daniel Peterson and Sam Jacobson.

As goes the Restoration Center, so goes the health of Central

**Born from a mountain top experience of discomfort,
Central's Community Ministries restore lives and affect
our strategy for mission**

The Restoration Center—Central's center for social justice and advocacy—opened for a three-hour test run in early March 2009. Two years later, it is a thriving, vibrant model of urban ministry. A decision in 2008 to provide dedicated space to Central's Community Ministries not only provided greater hospitality to guests—persons in need—but it opened the door to new ways of thinking and planning that have led to the creation of a whole new subset of ministries.



servant church—in 1919. The success of the Clothes Closet ministry is the foundation of today's Restoration Center.

Meeting discomfort head on

"The blessing of the prior years was that they took the people here at Central up this mountain of discomfort," said Pastor Rick Nelson. "People were not just reading about the implications of poverty or homelessness, but they were experiencing it first hand by coexisting with people in need on this campus. The congregation really went through some times of great discomfort—being disturbed in a good way—and eventually decided that 'we're going to be together here.' That is not the case with some urban congregations and it's a blessing that has allowed us to move forward."

Dedicated space triggers greater imagination for ministry

When Pastor Rick came to Central in 2006, Community Ministry was operating out of temporary space. The Clothes Closet had to be completely set up and taken down for its two weekday openings and guests were welcome in Fellowship Hall—basically a daily shelter for the homeless—as long as it was not needed for other events. Pastor Rick said that he was uncomfortable about the way people were "bumped out" when the space was needed and soon talks began about planning some kind of dedicated space that would be more hospitable.

"Suddenly the vision for putting money into this collided with the closing of the charter school that was renting the lower level of the education building," said Pastor Rick. "It became clear that we needed to claim that space as our own."

The result was the Restoration Center, housed in dedicated space that not only allowed for the Clothes Closet to be set up all the time and thus open more hours, but allowing a whole variety of services to spring up. The dedicated space meant that "the expectation was greater for that ministry," said Pastor Rick. Pastor Kristen Jacobson, associate pastor for youth, family and community ministries, said it was planned to be a place "that broadens the perspective of God's power to restore us." And the restoring is not being limited to who Pastor Kristen calls "God's homeless people," but also to volunteers and those who offer money and prayers.

The Restoration Center is the latest incarnation of outreach to the community at Central and has its roots in the ministry of the Clothes Closet—a free store for clothing and household items—that opened its doors in 1967. That ministry, which added a weekly meal and worship service early on, was but a new form of a legacy of community service that dates back to Central's founding—as a

Annual stewardship emphasis begins Sunday, May 1

Central's annual three-week stewardship emphasis—timed to allow consideration of financial pledges for the coming fiscal year beginning in June—will begin Sunday, May 1 as Pastor Rick Nelson leads the congregation to consider the impact of stewardship that is "Grounded in Gratitude."

**Grounded in
Gratitude**
Stewardship 2011

Pastor Rick will preach each of the three Sundays with the themes "Grounded in Gratitude: We Believe;" "Grounded in Gratitude: We Excel in Generosity" and "Grounded in Gratitude: We Share All Things Joyfully."

Sunday, May 22 will be "Commitment Sunday." Watch for more information and a special mailing.

Worship broadcast distribution to change

Beginning on Sunday, May 22, the 11:00 worship service will be available through a live audio stream on Central's website (www.centralmpls.org). The recordings will also be archived for "on demand" listening at any time.

Central's homebound members, and others who request it, will receive an audio recording of the service on compact disc in the mail each Wednesday, along with the worship bulletin and newsletter. A compact disc player will be purchased for each homebound member.

The current live radio broadcast on WDGY will conclude on May 15. Plans for full audio/visual streaming of worship services and other events at Central is in the planning stages.

Calling musicians!

Do you sing or play an instrument? Would you be interested in offering special music for an occasional Saturday evening service here at Central (5:30 — 6:15)? Carolyn Diamond, principal musician for the Saturday service, is looking for available participants to add to this lovely, intimate service. The music need not be complex, just heartfelt. If you would like to offer your gifts, contact Carolyn at carolyn_diamond@mschi.com or 612-963-4853.

Restoration Center (continued from previous page)

“What’s transpired here, through the congregation’s energy and Kristen and Rolf’s leadership, is a subset of ministries that are legitimate vehicles for the expressions of people’s faith,” said Pastor Rick.

That subset of ministries, which Pastor Kristen says has “blossomed exponentially,” today includes a team that helps clients find employment, services by volunteer chaplains, a variety of financial assistance programs, a women’s group sponsored by the Augsburg Central Nursing Center (started in 1992 and now located within the Restoration Center), an AA group, a community worship service, the Monday community meal, a men’s Bible study, teams that carry out social justice advocacy and, of course, the Clothes Closet. The Restoration Center ministries serve hundreds of people each week and are carried out by more than 70 volunteers.

Becoming comfortable asking questions

At the 2009 Annual Meeting Pastor Rick said “As goes the Restoration Center, so goes the health of Central.” In an interview on March 9, he expounded on this concept.

“I think what’s happened with the Restoration Center is indicative of some of the best stuff that God is doing here because we have given permission to people to live out their faith in some different ways and we have decided to coexist with people at the level of human need, not at some other level, such as worship,” said Pastor Rick. “God has shown us a way to be in the City—engaged for the sake of the world; thinking first about what is good for others—people who need help.”

“It has posed for us a whole different set of questions and its been good for us—translating into the rest of the life of the congregation—asking the same questions about other areas of ministry. Because of the Restoration Center we are becoming comfortable asking questions about how we might do things differently for the sake of somebody else, not just for the sake of those already here,” said Pastor Rick.

“It affects us in great ways and, thankfully, it continues to disturb us.”

Central is working to end homelessness

We work with the man holding a sign on the 11th exit ramp and we engage the governor of this state,” said Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, describing the wide range of efforts and impact of Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH), a unique interfaith collaboration of 15 congregations, including Central—Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Universalist—working to end homelessness. Rolf, Central’s Director of Community Ministries, currently serves as chair of the DCEH Steering Committee. He gave a progress report recently to the senior clergy of the DCEH congregations.

“We do this work of ending homelessness because we are people of faith,” Rolf told the clergy. “It is the right thing to do morally and it is also the right thing to do economically. Serving our neighbors and housing people in need is about human dignity and it is about creating a healthier community all around.”

The 2010 DCEH Annual Report, which was distributed at the meeting, lists some amazing accomplishments by an organization that is just three years old. Chief among them is the Currie Avenue Partnership, an unprecedented collaboration between the downtown business community and the faith communities of DCEH. Within a month the partnership raised \$130,000. As of December 31, 2010, the case workers hired with those funds have moved 110 persons out of homeless shelters to permanent housing. The Downtown Journal named the Currie Avenue Partnership as “one of the ten best things to happen in downtown Minneapolis in 2010!”

“I love this cooperative venture with other faith communities who share a common passion for those un-housed in our city,” said Pastor Rick Nelson. “It is a vital and massive undertaking. This effort together is an important expression of our deep desire and intent to live out our faith in loving activity—engaging hearts, minds, voices and wallets on behalf of those needing meaningful employment, affordable housing and medical care. I believe DCEH to be a movement that God will bless and multiply.”

LEARN MORE AT WWW.DCEH.ORG

Join Friends of Central!



All across the church are people who feel a strong connection to Central Lutheran Church—people who want to “stay connected” to this thriving urban congregation. Friends of Central is a network of former members, children of the congregation, wedding couples, participants in national and international gatherings and many others.

As a Friend of Central you will receive “Central Connections,” a periodic newsletter full of current news about the mission and ministry of Central and “stories of connection” and fond “Central memories” from friends around the church.

To join Friends of Central, log onto www.centralmpls.org (and look for the icon under QuickLinks) or pick up a brochure in the Information Racks or at the Church Office.

We are in the midst of the Year of Water

The Central Cares for Creation Ministry Team is leading the congregation and the community through the Year of Water—an educational and public awareness campaign coinciding with stormwater management and water conservation project. Each week this year the C3 Team is offering a brief bit of information or tip about water.

“More than one billion people around the globe lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation services. In developing countries, 80 percent of illnesses relate to poor water quality: someone dies of a water-related illness every 14 seconds.”
(Source—ELCA Issue Brief: Water, July 2007)

learn more at www.centralmpls.org

Central Lutheran Church

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
WWW.ELCA.ORG

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Thank you to our Easter Garden donors!

The members and friends of Central listed here (**in bold**) have helped to carry on a decades-old tradition by purchasing Easter lillies that adorn our worship space today and then be delivered to our homebound members.

Please help deliver the plants! Recipient addresses and plants may be picked up today following the 11:00 service or on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week. Thank you!

Contributed by In memory of

Anonymous

Eldon & Emma Larson

Bob Anderson

Dr. Roger & Agnes Anderson

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Cora Thompson

Sidney & Marian Anderson

Chuck & Joyce Anderson

Hartvig & Lydia Anderson

Manford Amundson, parents

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Grandparents

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Doris Berg

Loved ones

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Lois & Laverne Bergan

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Barbara Brown

Phyllis Wallis, Milton Brown

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James & Marcella Harvey

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Central Sunday School Kids

Cyndi Verchota

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Vi Christiansen

Earl Christiansen, father

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parents & grandparents

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Erling & Peter Christian Dokken

Barb and Dick Edlund

Mabel Klarquist, mother

Marge Edlund, mother

Jane Eshleman

Mary Rasmussen

Cindy Doran-Tews

Andrew Doran

Florence Doran

Ione Dybsetter

Amanda Dybsetter

Muriel E. Dostal

Guel M. Dostal, husband

Dick & Barb Edlund

Mabel Klarquist, mother

Marge Edlund, mother

Shirley Elavsky

Loved ones

Jeff Elavsky

Beloved family members

Judy & Bob Erdman

Augustana Missionary Relatives

Egan Family

Leota Bingham

Dede Egan

John & Jonell Kinyon

Cyndi Verchota

Joyce & Bruce Ellingson

Stanley Elliott, father

Sidney Ellingson, father

Evert Family

Mildred Evert

Stephen Gangstead

Doris & Owen Gangstead

Alice & Betsy Gibson

Edward & Lois Gibson

Alberta Lundy

Lowell Giere

Mrs. Esther Giere, mother

Rev. Verne Giere, father

Grace Circle

Departed members

Larry & Zylpha Gregerson

L.N. & Pearl Gregerson

Leland Hughes

Lloyd C. Grinde

Hannah Grinde

James and Cheryl Groettum

Our parents

Elaine A. Gunderson

Louise M. Larson, mother

Albert G. Gunderson, father

Tom & Debbie Hanna

Laura Beth Hanna

Leonard Thompson

Linnea Hanley Hanson

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Hanson, father

Anne Louise Hanson

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Hanson, father

Dolores Hanson

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Hanson, husband

Kristen & Sarah

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Hanson, grandfather

Carol Henderson

Oland T. Henderson

Vern & Lois Jones, parents

Irene McPherson Burns, aunt

Elwood Henning

Beverly Henning, wife

Cecelia Scheber, mother-in-law

Joan & Dick Hilden

Joyce Christensen

Wally & Karen Hinz

Warren Anderson

Ev Anderson

Charles Hinz

Ben & Mary Ho

Parents

Barb & Carl Hoernemann

Parents

Phil & Laura Holst

Helen Berg

Kathryn Holum

Mary Holum

Liz Holum Johnson

Jeffrey Cavanaugh

Ruth Hovden

Merlin Hovden

Kathryn Hovey

Charlotte & Egil Hovey

Husbands Family

Cyndi Verchota

Gary Johnson

Carl & Grace, parents

Bob & Millie Jung

Jeanie Westley, sister

Margie Jung, sister

Maria Kjoller

Maestro Johannes Somary

Sara Klomp

George Klomp, father

Melissa, Neva & Morgan Knoll

Gregory Knoll

Judith Korogi

Gerald Korogi, husband

Lee Anne Lack

Rev. Edward Hansen

Alan Lecher

Judy, wife

Lawrence Lecher, father

Harold Lee

Ethel Lee, wife; & parents

Judy Lillestol

Leif & Doris Lillestol, parents

Rose Lillestol

Robert, husband & Corey, son
Lewis & Lillian Woodstock, parents

Avis Lindquist

Family & friends

Bill Masche

Richard Masche, father

Anita B. Mattson

Ole & Ragnhild Mattson, parents

Charles & Karla Moline

Parents

Curtis & Verne Melberg

Loved ones

Kay Mensing

Alice Mensing

Fred Mensing

Hazel Milne

Family

Patti Munzenrieder

Raymond Hanson

Ellen Hanson

Don & Karen Natwick

Clarence Natwick

Myrtle Natwick

Maynard Voth

Marian Voth

Thomas G. Neadle

Mr. & Mrs. George Neadle

Mr. & Mrs. J.T. Neadle

Pramila & Pawan Nelson

Samuel & Mariam Nelson,
parents and grandparents

Trudy Ness

Arnie, husband

Our parents

Glyn Northington & Stan Kolden

Agnes, Shirley Magnuson's mother

Daphne Ofsthun

Loved ones

Jerry & Rosemary Olerud

Our parents & John Bork

Jerry & Muriel Olsen

Loved ones

Lance Olson

Ima Olson

Phil & Eve Overby

Mark, son

Jane Panzer

Roger Panzer, dad

Joyce & Fred Hilary

Jeanne Pemble & Joel Toeschl

Kat Bramhall

Loretta Pemble

Clyde Pemble

Maggie Peterson

M. Odell Edwardson, father

Betty J. Pomeroy

Warren L. Pomeroy, husband

Martha J. Rasmussen

Donna Rasmussen

Lee Reid

Winston Reid, husband

Tom Reid, son

Gwendoline Reid, sister-in-law

Susan Reid

Tom Reid

Win Reid

Hazel Reinhardt

Esther Hasseler

Betty Reveling

Bruce Reveling, brother

Mr. & Mrs. I.M. Reveling, parents

Dave Rodriguez

Elroy & Flora Borgmann

Ruth Circle

Departed members:

Ellen Hansen

Helen Follingstad

Edith Xavier

Steve Rustand

Sandy Mastel

Dorothy Sorbo

Parents

Martha Schaefer

Clemence Schaefer

Charles & Jeanne Scheiderer

Parents

Sharon, Erica & Sara Schmid

Bob Schmid

Rod Schmidt

Elizabeth Schmidt

Barb Schommer

Gordon & Elsamarie Thune

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Cyndi Verchota

Angeline Sorenson

Ken Sorenson

David & Kathryn Sorensen

Robert & Olivia Hammar

Harold Sorensen

Dorothy Sorbo

Parents

Karl Starr & Christopher Haug

Christian Olaf Osen, nephew

Jan Edward Haug, Christopher's father

Kenneth Sverre Haug, brother

Mildred Gullickson Starr

Richard Starr, husband

Al Starr, son

Charlie Gullickson &

Mathilda Peterson Gullickson, parents

Larson Peterson & Mary Seim Peterson,
grandparents

Nancy Stefan

Joseph & Nelda Stefan, parents

Vivian Anderson

Stensaas Family

Ethel Lee

Jim Glewwe

Cyndi Verchota

Karen, Kristi & Sara Strand

Karl Ben & Geneva Myrtle Strand

Steve & Ruth Studt

Clarence Studt

Fremont Isaacs

Gladys Isaacs

Julia & Bruce Taber

Gregory Taber, brother

Mons & Shirley Teig

Parents

Ann & Mark Tranvik

Helen Ford Dwyer

Mark Tranvik

Lloyd & Jackie Thorsen

Parents; Christopher Einar, son

John & Renee Troselius

Alfred Hanson,

Harold & Geneva Troselius

Paul & Susan Troselius

John Peterson,

Harold & Geneva Troselius

Ushers' Society

All departed members

Loretta Varpness

Husband

Dale & Ruth Warland

Joseph & Gertrude Warland

Rev. Oliver & Agnes Seim

Deborah Wee

Evie Bill

David West & Kristin Schoephoerster

Phil Ranheim

Hugh & Gerry Schoephoerster

Gladys Prieb

Westby Family

Charlotte Olga Westby

Paul Ansgar Westby

Helen Irene Westby

Renate & Jim Whitmas

Clarence Johnson, father

Grace Amanda Johnson, mother

Charlene Wickman, Michael Wickman**& Stephen Shearer**

Paul Wickman

Rev. Larry Day

Sharon Williams

E. Vi Steingas

Lois Wolff

Fred & Dorothy Wolff

Siegfried & Ursula Schuehle

Youth & Family Ministry Team

Cyndi Verchota

Contributed by

In honor of

Kari & John Aasan

Granddaughters

Jim & Edith Adams

Leonard (Bumps) Bjornstad

Clothes Closet and

Sunday School volunteers

Dick & Connie Adair

Family

Pastor Chuck & Joyce Anderson

Myrtle Amundson, mother;

Children & grandchildren

Central Cares for Creation

Ministry Team

Larry Angeles & Kathy Otis

Nina Angeles

Lois & Laverne Bergan

OWLS Planning Team

John Blair
Parents

Barbara Brown
Tristan, Zoe & Kendall

JoAn & George Carlson
Juanita Palmer

Donna Dokken
Chris, Kari, Marit & Ingrid Lyle

Egan Family
Sunday school staff & families

Jeff Elavsky
Shirley Elavsky

Jane Eshleman
Kathy Schindel

Sara & Bryon Gunsch
Lily Clarice Gunsch

Elaine A. Gunderson
Dorothea Miller

Gloria Hahn
Dwayne Wright
Mark Sedio

Karen, Tom & Anna Hielsberg
Myrtle Johnson, great-grandma

Jim & JoAnne Heintz
Merlene Nelson

Karen Knox
Central's lay ministers

Connie Hagen Johnson
Pastor Rick & Annette Nelson, sister

Marit & Ingrid Lyle
Grandma Dokken

Bill Masche
Frances Jensen (Masche), mother

Anita B. Mattson
Donald E. Wallin

Kathryn Kvammen-McKinley & Brian McKinley
Lillian Kvammen, mother
Marieon McKinley, mother

Dona Meland
Church staff

Pawan & Pramila Nelson
Soldiers & their families

Pastor Rick & Annette Nelson
Our family

Warren Olson
Global Health Ministries

Bud & Jeannette Peterson
Our family

Mark & Janice Peterson
Bud Peterson & Margery Carpenter
Paul, Daniel, Ben, Jaclyn, our children

Don & Shirley Wiese
60th Wedding Anniversary

Jerry & Muriel Olsen
Andy, Sonja, Erik & Marta, grandchildren
Christmas Tea Committee
Funeral Reception Ministry Team

Phil & Eve Overby
Our pastors

Janyce & Rich Olson
Warren & Lilly Olson's marriage

Bobbie Spradley & Neil Kittlesen
Kris Onken, daughter

Karl Starr & Christopher Haug
Central's Floral Guild

Steven & Ruth Studt
Cleo Studt

Mons & Shirley Teig
Children & grandchildren

John & Renee Troselius
Betty Hanson

Paul & Susan Troselius
Audrey Peterson

Bob & Bonnie Weisenburger
Mead & June Cavert
Bud & Jean Peterson

Fred & Mariel Wolter
Jeffrey Wolter
Bob Habeger

Sharon Williams
Morgan Williams
Brennan Cogswell

Contributed to the glory of God by

Bob Boldt
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Norma Kusnier
Steven Langmo
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Karen Snyder
Mae Widness

A congregation created to give itself away Celebrating the 92nd anniversary of the founding of Central

Last week—on Palm Sunday—Central celebrated its 92nd birthday—a tradition because on that day the first worship service was held in 1919. Less than ten years later, with a membership surpassing the 2,000 mark, the current sanctuary was dedicated on Palm Sunday 1928.

And so for decades Palm Sunday has also been celebrated as Founders' Day—a time to revisit the foresight, imagination and even audacity of a group of Norwegian businessmen, sometimes referred to as “the courageous twelve.” They started a church that would be, as Lawrence Brings described in *What God Hath Wrought* (the history of the first 60 years of Central), “new in form and purpose.” They adopted for that church the motto, “the faith of our fathers in the language of our children.” It would not be a church stuck in the past. And it would be a church that existed to give itself away.

Pastor Stub was fond of saying that Central did not exist so much for the sake of its members, but so its members could be of service to the community—a vision for mission that has shaped Central for 92 years.

“I am continually inspired by the vision, faith and imagination of our founders as they embraced the future,” said Senior Pastor

Rick Nelson. “They created a ministry downtown that sought to give itself away for the sake of Christ, to care for God’s world in meaningful ways, and to invest the nurturing of faith through the magnificence of a sanctuary and gifted leaders and staff, who shed a bright light upon the path for our own future yet today.”

For many years it has been a tradition to have the incoming congregation president deliver the “Founders’ Day Proclamation” at worship services—a task that fell to President-Elect Christopher Lyle this year. He noted the very short period of time—nine years—that elapsed between the founding of the congregation and the building of the present Sanctuary, Central’s upcoming Centennial in nine years and the work of the Campus Master Plan Task Force.

“With the call for nominations to our Task Force late last year, we have prayerfully and deliberately entered our ‘nine year window,’” he said. “Nine years to consider how our space can best reflect the future needs of our members, visitors and community by the time Central celebrates its 100th anniversary.”

Read or listen to the Founders’ Day Proclamation at www.centralmpls.org

IN THE GRAPHIC: IVAR SIVERTEN, M. D., ONE OF THE TWELVE FOUNDERS



— events/opportunities —

Every Weekend

Saturday Worship — 5:30 p.m.

A 45-minute service that changes pattern throughout the church year.

Sunday Worship — 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Traditional services of Holy Communion with organ, vocal ensembles and bells.

Sunday Education — 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

Educational opportunities for all people age 3 and above: Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group and Adult Forums.

Summer Worship Schedule Begins the Weekend of May 29:

Saturday — 5:30 p.m.

Sunday — 10:00 a.m.

The Coming Week

Central Meetings, Events and Community Service

Monday, April 25

— Campus Closed —

Tuesday, April 26

General Staff Meeting, 10:15 a.m.

Congregation Council, 5:00 p.m.

Community Outreach Team, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27

Heritage Team, 9:00 a.m.

Clothes Closet opens, 10:00 a.m.

New Member Connection Team, 5:00 p.m.

Mannerchor Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

Central Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 28

Open AA Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

Augsburg Nursing Women's Group, 10:30 a.m.

Clothes Closet Opens, 1:00 p.m.

Central Choristers, 5:15 p.m.

Youth/Family Min. Advisory Team, 5:15 p.m.

CLCW Special Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Next Weekend

New Member Orientation

Sundays, May 1 and 22

The New Member Ministry Team offers two informative sessions introducing Central's many ministries with presentations by staff and elected leadership. Both sessions conclude with the 11:00 a.m. worship service, including reception of new members on May 22. Contact the Church Office for more information at 612-870-4416. — 8:15 a.m. in Room 123

Sunday School Resumes

Sunday, May 1

— Assembly of hygiene kits followed by a group class with Greer Cherney. — 9:45 a.m. in Room 222

Global Mission Forum

Sunday, May 1

"What's New at Operation Bookstrap Africa?" Come and hear interim director Diane Jacoby talk about the current projects of OBA, including the Masssae Girls Lutheran Secondary School. — 9:45 a.m. in Room 128

Book of Faith Forum

Sunday, May 1

Dr. Frederick J. Gaiser, Luther Seminary Professor of Old Testament will talk in what sense the Bible is a "book" and if special rules apply to its form of literature. Will it survive critical reading or must it be handled only with the "gloves of faith." Part of a year-long series. — 9:45 a.m. in the Community Room

Youth Mission Trip Training #2

Sunday, May 1

Youth participating in the Summer Youth Mission Trip to Montana will meet for lunch and planning, including details of the road trip, t-shirts, Bible study focus and more. Please bring health forms and releases. — 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in the Youth Room

Looking Ahead

Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend

Breakfast, Saturday, May 7

Cathy Wurzer, host of "Morning Edition" on Minnesota Public Radio and co-host of "Almanac" 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 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 virtuoso 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! More information at www.msomm.org.

OWLS Musical Program

Wednesday, May 11

Join Central's Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) to hear piano stylist Jim Shannon, presenting a variety of piano music and entertainment. Jim has performed in 19 states and 16 foreign countries. Cost: \$7.00. — Reservations taken Sundays, May 1 and 8.

Community Ministry Forum

Sunday, May 15

Paul Thissen (DFL), Minority Leader of the Minnesota House of Representatives, will speak about being a person of faith in politics, the State budget and how the budget will affect the most vulnerable people in our community. — 9:45 a.m. in the Community Room

Book of Faith Forum

Sunday, May 15

The Rev. Dr. Mons Teig, Central member and professor emeritus of Luther Seminary, will present another forum in a year-long series exploring the Bible — part of the Book of Faith Initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. — 9:45 a.m. in the Room 123

Saint Paul Saints Baseball Game

Sunday, May 15

Central's Youth and Family Ministries present this "Family and Friends Event. Please mark your calendar and watch for sign up opportunities soon. — Game start time: 1:00 p.m.

Mother/Daughter Event

Saturday, May 28

Central's Youth and Family Ministries present "In God's Image," a special event at the Hilton Garden Inn for mothers and daughters in 6th to 8th grades. This will be a special experience of retreat and celebrating who God made us to be. Breakfast and lunch will be served; special guest speakers — a time to take care of yourself. — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$25 per mother/daughter pair. RSVP: Greer Cherney by May 22.



A Piece of Paradise
Gardening Corps appeal underway

Central's Gardening Corps has launched an appeal to replace aging outdoor planters and add fountains and bird baths. Read about the appeal in a brochure available in the information racks or at the Church Office.

An initiative of the Gardening Corps
Central Lutheran Church
DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS