



The Summer Spirit of Central

News about the mission of Central Lutheran
Church — Downtown Minneapolis

August 1, 2010

Central will join Book of Faith Initiative this fall



book of faith

The purpose of the Book of Faith Initiative is to increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world.

Central will officially join with other congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in implementing the Book of Faith Initiative in our congregation this fall, announced Pastor Kristen Jacobson, associate pastor for youth, family and community ministries.

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has made a commitment to

encourage all members of our congregations, from children to adults, to dig deeper into our book of faith, the Bible,” says a statement on the Book of Faith website (www.bookoffaith.org). “The Book of Faith Initiative recommends a new model for our church—a grassroots approach embracing a common vision in which all are invited to open scripture and join the conversation. Each community is encouraged to decide how the Book of Faith Initiative will become a vital part of its own ministry.”

Planning about what the Initiative will look like at Central is now underway, reports Pastor Kristen. “While we already do many things around here that honor the Book of Faith Initiative, such as Pastor Rick Nelson’s Bible studies and scripture study with our children middle school and high school students, we are now going deeper.”

Pastor Kristen reports that a new ministry team is being formed to plan adult learning opportunities for the coming year based on the Book of Faith curriculum. Initial members of the team include Central members Rick Bliese, president of Luther Seminary, and Mark Tranvik, professor of religion at Augsburg College. The team replaces the former Lifelong Learning Team. The team will announce its offering for the coming year—which Pastor Kristen says will be available on most Sundays, including a Bible study series in October, led by Pastor Rick—on Homecoming Sunday, September 12.

Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer appointed chair of Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness

The steering committee of Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH) appointed Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer its chair on July 28. Rolf, Central’s Community Ministries Coordinator, will serve for a two-year term. DCEH is an interfaith coalition of 14 congregations that educate and engage congregants in the work of the Heading Home Hennepin plan to end homelessness and issues related to poverty.

“The DCEH is doing some amazing collaborative, interfaith work in the community,” said Rolf. “Central will continue to be a driving force in efforts in serving the most vulnerable members of our community, in educating on the issues of homelessness and poverty, and in pursuing justice. I look forward to serving faithfully and to working with many others to build a healthy community with God at the center.”

“I am excited about the recognition of Rolf’s leadership and great trust that is bestowed in such an election to chair,” said Pastor Rick Nelson, Central Senior Pastor and a leader in Heading Home Minnesota, a statement effort to end homelessness. “This puts Central precisely where we should be: at the hub of our intentions to work together with others in the faith community downtown to effectively house and care for those in need with integrity and grace. As each of us on staff at Central work to touch the lives of all people with the love of Christ, Rolf’s strong commitment and partnership is inspiring.”

“I stand proudly among those committed to working alongside of him in such efforts, and regard it a privilege to count him as colleague, partner, and friend in very effective, relevant, and practical ministries”

— in pictures —

Snapshots of Our Life Together in Mission

Vacation Bible School . . . session three

Photos by Hannah Jacobson

Our 2010 Vacation Bible School—Baobab Blast— continued on Wednesday, July 28 with the theme “Follow,” where students of all ages learned about Jesus’ calling of the disciples and making them “fishers of men.” From following with painted footsteps, to a science project where beans represented fish to be caught in nets, to storytelling under the Boabab tree, to fellowship and fun—12-year-old Hannah Jacobson give us these images.

Oh yes, there is a different African “critter” each week, this week it was Bud, the elephant.



Central Lights

The Summer Central People Series

Shining the spotlight on some of our shining lights—
lay ministers who serve faithfully, often behind the scenes



Joan Van Wirt

Member of Central since 1970

LAY MINISTRY (VOLUNTEER) SERVICE:
President, Shalom Circle; Hospitality Greeter;
Care Ministry Team; Administrative Aide in
Restoration Center; Central Lutheran Church
Women Board Member; Main Office Receptionist;
and Central Coordinator for Downtown Grief
Coalition

Joan was a member of a suburban Lutheran congregation in 1970, when she and her husband moved downtown and started visiting Central. They got hooked by Central's community service, especially the Clothes Closet.

"That's really what pulled us in," said Joan. "This kind of outreach to the neighborhood—trying to make life better for people—was a totally different

atmosphere for us. It was very exciting and we decided to join."

Joan was initially involved in the Clothes Closet, including picking up clients and driving them to Central. Then she took a break to become an adult college student—earning a degree in social work; to begin full-time work and to care for her husband, who endured a six-year illness, which claimed his life. Joan's second husband died of leukemia after only two years of marriage. It was then, in 2001, that Joan began attending the Downtown Grief Coalition—a weekly support group sponsored by several downtown Minneapolis churches, including Central. She went on to be a leader in the work of the Coalition and today serves as Central's coordinator for the program—which will come to Central for four months beginning in September.

Q: Why invest in Central?

A: "I think the Holy Spirit leads a person—opens doors for service. That's what happened to me. I did not set out to do all these things, but I saw a need; felt a calling; and with time to give, decided 'I can do this.' And, I have received much more in return than I have ever given."

Q: What do you see happening around Central these days that excites you and gives you hope for the future?

A: "Central's incredible hospitality efforts—people of all ages working together—to welcome everyone through our doors. Our effort to be inclusive of all is very hopeful."

Q: When, in your opinion, is Central "at its best?"

A: "For me its the rich worship—God's Word presented in God's House."

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, August 2 — Psalm 127; Ecclesiastes 2:1-17; Colossians 3:18—4:1 Tuesday, August 3 — Psalm 127; Ecclesiastes 3:16—4:8; Colossians 4:2-6 Wednesday, August 4 — Psalm 127; Ecclesiastes 12:1-8,13-14; Luke 12:22-31 Thursday, August 5 — Psalm 33:12-22; Job 21:1-16; Romans 9:1-9 Friday, August 6 — Psalm 33:12-22; Ecclesiastes 6:1-6; Acts 7:1-8 Saturday, August 7 — Psalm 33:12-22; Genesis 11:27-32; Matthew 6:19-24 Sunday, August 8 — Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Central Lutheran Church

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
WWW.ELCA.ORG

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events/opportunities

This Week

Central Meetings, Events and Community Service

CONSULT MONITOR OR OFFICE FOR LOCATIONS

Monday, August 2

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

Tuesday, August 3

Congregation
Council, 5:00 p.m.
Community
Ministry Employ-
ment Team,
5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 4

Clothes Closet,
10:00 a.m.
OWLS Planning
Team, 1:00 p.m.
Silver Bells
Rehearsal,
2:30 p.m.
Summer DOT
Com Worship,
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 5

Open AA Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
Augsburg Nursing Women's Group, 10:30 a.m.
Women's Summer Faith Lunch, 12:00 Noon
Shared Ministry Team, 5:30 p.m.

Looking Ahead

OWLS to Visit Russian Art Museum, Thursday, August 12

Join Central's Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) for a trip to this world-class museum—the only art museum in the United States devoted solely to Russian art. Motorcoach leaves Central at 11:30 a.m. stopping for lunch at Old Country Buffet at Noon. At 1:30 p.m. the group will head to the museum, returning to Central by 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$15.00 (includes museum pass, lunch and transportation). **Reservations are being taken today on the North Plaza following worship.**

Upcoming Baptism Festivals, August 15 and October 3

On baptism festival days we obey our Lord's command recorded by Matthew: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. (Mt. 28:19-20)

We seek to live out Christ's command that we be a baptizing community, scheduling baptism festivals when we can be sure to have abundant water, generous actions, baptismal hymns. As candidates come to the water and the word, let us gather with them around the life-giving

waters of Holy Baptism. Our next baptism festivals are scheduled for August 15 and October 3. Individuals or families with candidates of any age for baptism are invited to contact the Church Office to be included.

A Different Kind of Book Club, Begins October 14

Reading a number of books on a problematic or interesting issue and studying that issue in depth, this Club would begin with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict reading the book, *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East* by Sandy Tolan.

The Book/Study Club would take into consideration the schedules of busy men and women as they attend or do not attend according to their interest and time availability. Those suggesting books and issues would be the leaders for as much time as agreed upon. We hope to start this Club in October---with our first meeting on Thursday, October 14 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Further notice will be found in "The Spirit".

Admittedly, this is an experiment hoping to accommodate various interests, ideas and opinions based on the books read.

If interested, please contact:

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Beginning September 11 —a new Saturday evening worship service— "Eucharist in the Round" 5:30 p.m.

This 45-minute, casual service—featuring Holy Communion gathered around the altar—will be a great way for many to begin an evening in downtown Minneapolis. Watch for details.

Central's
Discovering **Heritage**

Special Summer Presentations
by the Docent Ministry Team

Three Sundays in August

15-Minute Visual Presentation
followed by Q & A
— In the Sanctuary, following Worship—
(Get some coffee on the Plaza and bring it inside!)

August 8 — Music at Central
August 15 — Central's History and Sanctuary
August 22 — Central's Art