



The Summer Spirit of Central

News about the mission of Central Lutheran Church — Downtown Minneapolis

Sunday, May 30, 2010

A new worship option for this summer

Wednesday evening service begins this week



Central's new midweek, 2010 summer worship service launches this week — Wednesday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. on the patio outside South Commons. The service will offer another worship option for Central members and friends whose summer routines or travel take them away on Sundays. "Summer Dot Com" is being described as a "casual, come-as-you-are, family-friendly, relaxed 45-minute service

of Word, Holy Communion and song." It will be followed each week by "ice cream fellowship" served from the South Commons Served. In the case of inclement weather, the Wednesday evening service will take place inside South Commons. The service will run for 14 weeks, concluding on September 1.

In the meantime, the WorshipLife Team is at work planning new worship opportunities for the fall, based on the recommendations of the Worship Task Force presented to the Congregation Council in late March. Those plans will include at least one new weekly worship service on a day other than Sunday and a new annual series of worship events planned both for the benefit of Central members and also as an opportunity to "increase the reach of Central" in direct support of one of our current strategic objectives.

Pledges top \$850,000

Total surpasses last year; many increase giving

As of May 27, without the two follow-up letters that were part of last year's appeal, the response to our 2010/2011 stewardship emphasis, "Stewardship in the Round," has already surpassed the total response of last year's effort. To date 366 Central households have pledged a total of \$850,904! And, in what Pastor Rick Nelson has termed "an extraordinary response in extraordinary financial times," 133 households that pledged last year have increased their pledges for the coming year by an average of more than 21%! In addition, 77 households have pledged for the first time and account for nearly \$150,000 of the total!

"Your faithful and generous gifts will enable us to carry out the ministry that God sets before us with continuing excellence and imaginative new paths," said Pastor Rick in a letter acknowledging the commitments. "I thank you for your support, encouragement and for taking a bold step forward in your giving through Central. To God be the glory!"

A word of thanks from Jim and Ellen

On May 16, as part of an appeal for donations to the Clothes Closet, *The Spirit* included a story about Jim and Ellen, a homeless couple who, according to Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, Central's Community Ministries Coordinator, "have been living outside for the better part of 2009 and 2010." During this time volunteers in the Restoration Center have been working with the couple on housing, employment and medical needs. This week Rolf received the following note from Jim and Ellen: "This is a thank you from Jim and I. Out of the year that we have been here, you have been our constant in our chaotic lives and a beacon of light in the darkness that has enveloped us. This place (Central), some of the staff, and you have proved that kindness, generosity, and decency still exist in a world full of hate. You've helped us with worldly things, but you have also restored our faith in people. Thank you and God bless."

Our Family Album

Snapshots of Our Life Together in Mission

O day full of grace

Images from the Day of Pentecost, May 23



Joe Bjordal



Mark Peterson

◆ Among the new members received on May 23 (lined up in the Commons to meet the congregation) were Will, Isabelle and Brita Brown—son-in-law, granddaughter and daughter of Pastor Rick and Annette Nelson



Joe Bjordal

◆ The seasonal worship team created some dramatic “flame” for the Day of Pentecost. ◆ Four Central youth were confirmed—Paul Peterson, Madeline Nicol, Emma Grotting and Maia Liss—see here with the pastors and Greer Cherney being photographed by Searle Swedlund.



Chuck Anderson



Dean Bliss

And, during this past week . . . ◆ Many, many Centralites signed a birthday card for Alida Thompson—our senior member at age 104—on May 16. Visitation Pastor Chuck Anderson delivered the card on May 26 and it brought great joy to Alida!! ◆ The members of Campanas Central—our bell choir—gathered to celebrate the conclusion of another successful season on May 26 at the home of Kris Schoephoerster and David West.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, May 31 — Psalm 5; Jonah 4:1-11; Acts 8:26-40 **Tuesday, June 1** — Psalm 5; Nehemiah 1:1-11; Acts 3:1-10 **Wednesday, June 2** — Psalm 5; Isaiah 56:1-8; Mark 7:24-30 **Thursday, June 3** — Psalm 30; 2 Samuel 14:1-11; Acts 26:1-11 **Friday, June 4** — Psalm 30; 2 Samuel 14:12-24; Acts 26:1-11 **Saturday, June 5** — Psalm 30; 2 Samuel 14:25-33; Matthew 9:2-8 **Sunday, June 6** — 1 Kings 17:17-24; Psalm 30; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

Central Lutheran Church

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CentralLights

The Summer Central People Series

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



Richard Stegall

Sacristan

Member of Central since 1990

What is your role as Sacristan and how did this volunteer opportunity come about?

Ten years ago Berit Aus asked me to help serve communion at the 11:00 service. Slowly the role grew to both services. Four years ago I was named Sacristan by Pastor C and, as such, oversee the functions of the sacristy. I usually think of what I do as preparing to serve a meal. So essentially I “set the table,” with the help of Dave West. This involves filling chalices of one sort or another with wine or grape juice, putting out the bread, lighting candles, preparing service folders and putting the tools in place for our pastoral staff to be host to the expected company. And there are other unique preparations for the variety of liturgies offered

here at Central, including baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Why do you invest in the mission of Central?

Serving Holy Communion is my worship to God. I also feel that, in a small way, I am helping to carry on Central’s legacy of hospitality—a legacy that once welcomed me through the doors and made me feel right at home.

What’s going on at Central today that excites you and gives you hope?

Serving communion nearly every Sunday, I can’t help but notice all the new faces and that’s really exciting. I also sense that there is a renewed spirit of service—many people wanting to be involved in a greater role in the life and service of our congregation.

Purchase a chair; help improve outdoor hospitality



Do you remember how nice the North Plaza looked last July 5? It was that day we didn’t roll out the 40-year-old, grey metal folding chairs—those lovely things! Members and guests alike not only reported that the rented chairs that day were actually comfortable, but they presented an image of welcome and hospitality that the “church basement chairs of yesteryear” just don’t do. Now the Circle of Hope and the Communications and Public Relations Ministry Team is out to make such an image of welcome and hospitality a permanent occurrence—on the North Plaza for Sunday fellowship and for outdoor worship on Wednesdays.

Please consider purchasing a new outdoor chair (folding, white resin with padded seat) for \$30 in honor or memory of a loved one. The names will be permanently recorded in our Book of Memories. Place a check in the offering plate or deliver to the Church Office. Write “chair” and “in memory or honor of” in the memo line. Chairs may be purchased with a credit card through our website (www.centralmpls.org)—click on “Donate Online Here” under Quick-Links. Indicate “in memory or honor of” in the gift designation field.

Announcing our 2010

Intergenerational Vacation Bible School! Five Wednesday Evenings

5:30 to 7:00

June 30; July 14, 28; August 11, 25

Information and registration forms available
on the Plaza every Sunday through June 27!



Events and Opportunities

Today

Join in outdoor fellowship on the North Plaza after worship!

Today we begin our summer practice of gathering on the North Plaza (weather permitting) for coffee and fellowship with live music some Sundays—including concerts on our 47-bell Paccard Carillon. **New this year is a ramp that makes the Plaza handicap accessible directly from the Narthex!** And, as first used last year, a safety fence prevents young children from wandering into the street. *Come! Enjoy!*

This Week

NOTE: The Central Campus will be closed on Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.

Central Meetings and Community Service

Tuesday, June 1—

Staff Meeting, 10:15 a.m. (123)
Grace Circle Luncheon, 12:30 p.m. (123)
Community Ministry Employment Team,
5:30 p.m. (Restoration Center “RC”)

Wednesday, June 2—

Clothes Closet, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. (RC)
CLCW Planning Team, 1:00 p.m. (Fireside)
CLCW Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m. (Fireside)

Thursday, June 3—

Open AA Meeting, 9:00 a.m. (RC)
Women’s Summer Faith Lunch, 12:00 Noon
(Fireside)
Clothes Closet, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. (RC)
Shared Ministry Team, 5:30 p.m. (Offsite)
C3 Ministry Team, 5:30 p.m. (123)

Men’s Fellowship meets June 5

Central’s Men’s Fellowship will conclude its season on Saturday, June 5, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. In lieu of a formal program, those present will be invited to share—summer plans or a favorite memory or current activity. The group will also evaluate the past year and plan for the future. Cost for breakfast: \$6.00.

Looking Ahead

Open House for Pastor Cherian Puthiyottil,

Sunday, June 13, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Cherian, a former associate pastor of Central, is retiring as executive director of Agora Ministries. Friends of Agora will gather to say thank you to Pastor Cherian and Carrie on Sunday, June 13 in Central’s Fellowship Hall, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., with a very special program from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. All are welcome. If you are unable to attend, please send your good wishes and memories to Annette Nelson at Agora Ministries, 9815 Portland Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55420 or to anelson@gtd.org.

OWLS to view Dead Sea Scrolls Tuesday, June 15

Central’s Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) will travel to the Science Museum of

Minnesota to view the exhibit “The Dead Sea Scrolls.” The scrolls contain the earliest-known biblical writings. They will also view “Arabia” in the Omni Theater. The museum will serve free coffee and pastries before we view the exhibit. Afterward it’s “lunch on your own” in the Elements Cafe. Exhibit and film tickets: \$22.00. Motorcoach departs Central at 9:30 a.m. and returns by 4:30 p.m. *Sign up today following worship on the North Plaza!*

Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 20

The 2010 Annual Meeting of Central Lutheran Church will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 20, following the morning worship service, in Fellowship Hall. The meeting will include remarks by the Senior Pastor and Congregation President; proposal and adoption of the operating budget for the coming fiscal year and elections to various leadership posts.

Oulainen Youth Choir in Concert Monday, June 21 — 7:30 p.m.

Founded in Finland in 1972, this choir of 30 girls under the direction of Tapani Tirilä, has toured the globe and won numerous international awards. This will be a rare opportunity to hear one of the world’s most famous youth choirs. Central is pleased to host the final concert of the 2010 North American tour. The girls will be overnight guests of several Central members following the concert. *A free, public event!*

Senior High Movie Night

Friday, June 25 — 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Dinner and treats will be served. Invite a friend. Please reserve with Greer Cherney by Sunday, June 20.

St. Paul Saints Baseball Family Event Sunday, June 27 — 11:30 a.m.

Join other Central families and friends for a fun day at the ballpark! All ages are welcome! Bring food, snacks and drinks to enjoy at the tailgate party before the game. Tickets: \$12.00. Please reserve with Greer by Sunday, June 20.

Summer Family Camp — July 2-4

Central families will return to Camp Wapogasset—site of the successful Winter Family Camp—for a weekend retreat of fun and fellowship. Cost: \$250 maximum per family—includes all meals and lodging. *Registration form and \$75 reservation deposit is due no later than June 1.* Please reserve with Greer today!

A Celebration of Interdependence— Dixieland Style, Sunday, July 4

Join us on Independence Day for a celebration that highlights our need for each other. The famed Dixieland band “Stomp N’ Dixie” will lead us in worship, including many favorite hymns and songs. At the end of the service we’ll follow the band to the North Plaza singing “When the Saints Go Marchin’ In.” All are invited to gather on the plaza for an old-fashioned Fourth of July Ice Cream Social—with more live Dixieland music! We’ll even invite our neighbors to join us!!