



the Spirit weekly

News about the mission of Central Lutheran Church
Downtown Minneapolis
Sunday, June 21, 2009

Poised to move forward in gratefulness; focused on mission *An interview with Joyce Anderson*



Like many other churches and organizations, Central has faced numerous challenges over the years—in recent decades especially, challenges of declining membership, an aging structure, staffing issues, related financial issues, and some unique challenges resulting from our downtown location. For almost 13 years beginning in the early 90's, Central faced what many call an unusually-complicated combination of such challenges, especially evident through the relatively brief tenures of two senior pastors that coincided with this time of significant transition.

Five years ago, the lay leadership of the congregation, along with an outside consultant, "took the bull by the horns," helping Central members to face the challenges directly. That great and deliberate time of reflection, assess-

ment, visioning and planning—empowered and blessed by the Holy Spirit—helped bring us to the place we are today with a healthy, collaborative staff that supports nearly 50 lay ministry teams. Many are now engaged in mission and ministry with a renewed focus, purpose and passion.

One person deeply involved in these efforts has been Joyce Anderson, who today, on Annual Meeting Sunday, completes an effective three-year term of service as president-elect; president; and past president, an ex-officio position on the Congregation Council. The Spirit asked Joyce to provide some insight to the ways these recent challenges were met and how she sees the climate at Central today.

Spirit: *How has the leadership dealt with and met the challenges of this transition period?*

Joyce: Over the past five years the leadership has sought to act responsibly and with a passion to make our life and work together at Central better by facing head-on the numerous difficulties and challenges. Dr. Peter Steinke, a consultant on healthy congregations, was engaged to provide direction and guidance. Seven task forces were formed to address identified issues. Their work was substantial and included addressing issues such as the role of ministry teams, leadership criteria, mission, appropriate staffing, communications, and the constitution. Many task force recommendations were approved. The whole process was instrumental in creating an openness and a new spirit within the congregation.

Our leadership was intentionally transparent about all the activities and the decisions. New ideas and a healthy new energy and involvement emerged. We were blessed with two interim senior pastors who provided, each in their own unique manner, excellent leadership to move the congregation forward and prepare for a permanent senior pastor. The interim process culminated with the calling of Pastor Rick Nelson in June 2006. Pastor Rick has provided spiritual and relational leadership to continue Central's healing. In his first year, the Council and pastoral staff participated in a Healthy Start program, including the development of a behavioral covenant to guide how elected leaders should work together. Leadership has continued with an openness and transparency that has continued to improve the health of the congregation. Pastor Kristen Jacobson and Pastor D. Foy Christopherson have also been added to our staff since 2006. All of these new pastors have brought gifts and ideas to grow their ministry areas.

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Annual Meeting Today

The 90th Annual Meeting of Central Lutheran Church will take place today immediately following the morning worship service in Fellowship Hall. All members of Central are encouraged to attend.

Spirit: *How do you, from the perspective of your leadership in the past three years, now see Central positioned for mission and ministry in the immediate future?*

Joyce: The “hard work” of earlier years has come to fruition in these three years. Having dealt with many challenges, our congregation is now able to focus on our mission to “welcome all people to celebrate, discover, and share the love of Christ.” We are able to share in mission with others outside our walls. Through a generous response to the capital campaign, “Forward in Faith,” we have been able to minister to many on the fringe of Central’s immediate family, to provide needed restoration to our wonderful Casavant organ, to provide disaster relief assistance, to replace our roof, and to update numerous areas of our building to meet the needs of those we serve. The new Restoration Center is increasing our service to the poor and disenfranchised who come to us for assistance. Our South Commons is more welcoming and hospitable to members, visitors and friends. Our membership records were updated to reflect the most accurate and realistic number of those who call Central their official church home. The ongoing needs of our facilities are being addressed in a planned process.

There is a renewed spirit of generosity and stewardship. Central members are excited and enthusiastic about volunteering and serving, recognizing that as a gift they can give. They are generous in financial giving which has resulted in a record stewardship campaign in a depressed economy. The love of God and the church is apparent.

While staffing in any organization is ever-changing, Central’s current employees are all focused for service and mission. The deliberate hiring of people with needed expertise has resulted in a highly-qualified staff. The team spirit is ever present, and the appreciation and respect for one another is evident to all. It’s a very healthy environment.

We have learned to celebrate together. Our recent 90th anniversary event was an example of how much we enjoy being together and honoring our rich heritage. We are reminded that what was begun as a community of faith founded on the gospel of Jesus Christ and committed to serving all people in ministry and caring continues. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are a thriving urban congregation doing God’s work.

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Meet the Candidates!

The 2009 Nominating Committee, through a months-long process of consideration, review, interview and discernment, recommends the following slate of candidates for election at the Annual Meeting. Members of the 2009 Nominating Committee are: Vi Christensen, Sara Gunsch, John Hagman (chair), Jim Hart, Jim Heinz, Tom Hoffmann, Karen Snyder, Rexanne Spicer and Susan Troselius.



Kristin Schoephoerster, President Elect

Kris has been a member of Central since 1988 and has served as a Sunday School teacher since that time. She has also served as assisting minister, chair of the Altar Guild, member of the Youth Ministry Team, accompanist for the Central Choristers, a member of the bell choir and more. She is married to David West and is the mother of Oliver (14) and Maggie (11). Her hobbies include knitting, playing the piano, reading, cooking, and taking walks with the family dog, Buddy.

Karl Starr, Secretary

Karl has been a member at Central since 2006. He serves as co-chair of Central’s Hospitality Ministry Team and previously served on the associate pastor call committee. Karl makes his home in the Standish-Ericsson neighborhood of south Minneapolis with his partner of 16 years, Christopher Haug. They share their home with two dogs, a cat and a tank of tropical fish. Karl’s mother, Millie Starr, is a long-time member of Central. Karl and Christopher enjoy gardening, cooking, entertaining and spending time at their cabin in Itasca County. Karl is a member of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Housing Partnership, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting access to affordable housing.

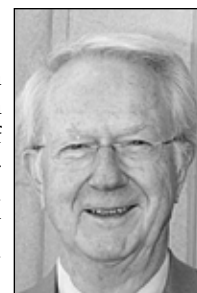


Emilie Brunsvold Anderson, Council-at-Large

Emilie has been a member of Central since 1998. She and her husband, Thomas, were married at Central in 2002. She is a stay-at-home mother of two children, Evi (5) and Anders (3), both baptized at Central. Emilie has served as a greeter and bookstore volunteer. She has represented northeast Minneapolis on the Board of Directors for Minnesota ACORN, a nonprofit that works to bring Twin Cities families together to fight for changes that improve low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

John Bogard, Council-at-Large (AGREED TO A SECOND TERM)

John attended Central during his college days at the University of Minnesota and met his wife, Judy, at Central. After raising their family in suburban Lutheran churches, they joined Central in 1988. He served on the Board of Trustees during the 1990s, has been an active member of Central’s music program for many years, and participates in prayers and as a reader at worship. John would like to see the Central membership stabilize and begin to grow again as the vision and mission statements are implemented.



David Johnson, Council-at-Large

(AGREED TO A SECOND TERM)

Having served on the Senior Pastor Call Committee, with communion ministry and life-long learning ministry, David is eager to see Central’s vision come alive by attracting some of the 32,000 persons living downtown. Since he retired as chancellor of the University of Minnesota-Morris, he continues to lead hiking adventures locally and globally.

Audit Committee (2 year-term): Bruce Nimmer

2010 Synod Assembly Voting Members: Maryon Lee, Judy Erdman, Sid Berg, Chris Stensaas
2010 Synod Assembly Alternates: Allison Winblad, David Sand

2010 Nominating Committee (3 year-term): Bruce Ellingson, Karen Hinz, Sara Stensaas

Great days have arrived! We move forward! We have a high calling to meet new and exciting challenges in our congregation, neighborhood and world. In gratefulness and thanksgiving to God for his gracious gifts, the mission goes on, the ministry continues.

“Rain leader” construction project set to begin

Pending approval by members at the Annual Meeting today, a significant construction project will begin June 22 that will disrupt several areas in Central’s buildings, as well as Third and Fourth Avenues. The project will redirect the flow of rain water away from the sanitary sewer system, where it now directed at several points around the campus, to the storm sewer system. The project, mandated by the City of Minneapolis, will place Central in compliance with city and state regulations dealing with water runoff and supports our mission to be good stewards of our natural resources.

Business Administrator David Alexander said that the South Commons and the Community Room will be particularly disrupted during the anticipate four-week project, but that construction will occur in many areas where new pipes will lead out of the building. In addition the guest parking lot adjacent to the South Commons will be a “staging area” for the construction company.

David said the project will be substantially completed by July 20, well in advance of the Churchwide Assembly, August 17-23, which will include many related events at Central.

Library announces new acquisitions for 2009

Did you know Central has a lending library with over 4,000 titles? We do! And, the Library Ministry Team has just announced its 2009 acquisitions to date: 94 new titles! A complete list is available on Central’s website (www.centralmpls.org) or in the library.

Regularly open on Sundays, the library may also be opened at any time by asking a staff member. The library’s catalog is computerized. Its books are organized in a number of special sections including children, parents, art, music, ecology and fiction. There is an extensive reference section and even a section with a “Central connection,” with books written by pastors, former pastors and members. Stop in and take advantage of the work of the Library Ministry Team!



10:00am — Worship with Dixieland Jazz Band

♦ favorite hymns and songs ♦ Dixieland-style procession to the plaza
Followed by a picnic on the plaza!

♦ an old-fashioned 4th of July picnic ♦ no charge ♦ all are welcome

**The picnic on the plaza is co-sponsored by our new neighbor,
The Great American Grill in the**



Hilton Garden Inn to co-sponsor July 5 picnic

We’re making new friends in the neighborhood! Our newest neighbor, the Hilton Garden Inn, will be our co-sponsor for the picnic on the plaza following the morning worship on July 5. The picnic will feature food from the Great American Grill, the restaurant in the Hilton. In return, news of the sponsorship and the hotel’s logo will appear in ads and publicity for the July 5 worship service and picnic. It is anticipated that this combined advertising will help capture the attention of more than the “usual suspects” and help us welcome many guests on that day.

Special Sunday brunch discount for Central members and friends; your bulletin is your coupon!

The Hilton is also offering some “neighborhood specials.” The breakfast buffet, normally \$12.95, is available to Central members and guests for only \$8.95, a savings of more than thirty percent! The breakfast buffet is served until 1:00pm on Sundays. Your Central worship bulletin is your “coupon” for this special deal. In addition, a 25% discount on lunch is available Monday through Friday. (Just tell your server that you are a member of Central.)

Hilton to support Restoration Center

It is anticipated this new neighborhood friendship will be beneficial to all parties. Central has already seen an increase in parking revenue since the opening of the Hilton, which exclusively recommends Central’s lot and ramp as the “no valet” parking alternative for their guests. This week, the hotel’s management team has informed Central that it wants to support the Restoration Center through clothing donations, donation of left-over food from banquet events and sending staff to help serve the Monday meal.



Drive for used manual typewriters extended!

The Global Mission Ministry Team wishes to thank all who have donated manual, portable typewriters for use in outlying areas in New Guinea. **The drive will now be extended through the month of July.** If you have a manual, portable typewriter to donate, please bring it to the Church Office!

Events & Opportunities

Today

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Central Lutheran Church will take place following the morning (10:00am) service today. The fellowship time following the morning worship service will take place in Fellowship Hall instead of on the North Plaza. Printed copies of the Annual Report will be available at the meeting. The report is also available on Central's website at www.centralmpls.org.

This Week

Downtown Grief Coalition, June 20

The Downtown Grief Coalition meets Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30am at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis. On June 27, Jere Truer will speak on "Using Writing and Poetry in Grief Recovery." Contact: Joan Van Wirt at 612-333-3273.

Looking Ahead

Join Central's OWLS on a St. Croix Riverboat Cruise, July 16

The OWLS (Central's Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) will cruise the scenic St. Croix River on Thursday, July 16. Buffet lunch onboard included! Cost: \$19. Motorcoach departs Central at 10:00am and returns by 3:30pm. **Reserve your place today at Sign-Up Central at the Church Office.**



Farewell party for Amanda Highben, July 29

The congregation is invited to a farewell party for our departing Youth and Family Minister on Wednesday, July 29, 7:00 to 8:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Appetizers, punch, coffee and cake provided. All are welcome. RSVP: Pastor Kristen Jacobson at kjacobson@centralmpls.org.

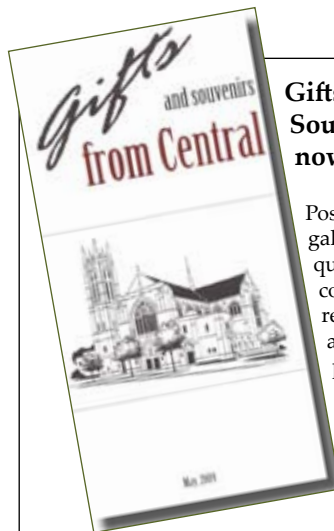
2009 Churwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 17-23

Volunteers Needed!

Nearly 2,000 Lutherans will descend on Minneapolis for the biennial legislative meeting of the ELCA, hosted by the Minneapolis and St. Paul Area Synods. Over 1,000 volunteers are needed at the Minneapolis Convention Center to work various shifts and carrying out the myriad of tasks necessary to host a national convention.

Information about volunteer opportunities at the Convention Center and online volunteer registration can be found on the website of the Minneapolis Area Synod at www.mpls-synod.org.

Volunteers also needed at Central! As previously announced, many Assembly-related events will take place at Central. The full list is on www.centralmpls.org. While various ministry teams are being mobilized to serve in a variety of ways, all are welcome to help carry on Central's legacy of hospitality to the wider church. To learn more about Assembly volunteer opportunities at Central, contact Barbara Brown at bbrown@centralmpls.org.



Gifts and Souvenirs now on sale!

Postcards, gallery quality prints, compact disc recordings and fair trade products that support Lutheran World Relief and more. Details

and prices can be found in a brochure in the information racks. The items are on sale at the information desk in the South Commons on Sundays and weekdays.

Calendar

Sunday, June 21

7:30am - Upper Room Open for Prayer
8:30am - Summer Bible Study (Fireside)
9:00am - Early Bird Coffee (Holy Grounds - South Commons)
10:00am - **Holy Communion (Sanctuary)**
11:10am - Annual Congregational Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
3:00pm - Salt of the Earth Storytellers (Fireside)
6:00pm - 8 - 80 AA (Community Room)
7:00pm - **Evening Prayer with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)** followed by fellowship in South Commons

Monday, June 22

3:00pm - Fireside Reserved

Tuesday, June 23

10:15am - Staff Meeting (Room 123)
5:00pm - Congregation Council Meeting (OFFSITE)

Wednesday, June 24

No Events Scheduled

Thursday, June 25

12:00pm - Women's Summer Faith Lunch (Fireside)
1:30pm - OWLS Trip (depart from South Commons)
7:00pm - Ivory Coast Bible Study (Elbow Room)
7:30pm - Central Pacific AA (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, June 26

12:00pm - Downtown Bible Study (Fireside)

Saturday, June 27

No Events Scheduled

Sunday, June 28

7:30am - Upper Room Open for Prayer
8:30am - Summer Bible Study (Fireside)
9:00am - Early Bird Coffee (Holy Grounds - South Commons)
10:00am **Holy Communion - Service of Healing (Sanctuary)**
11:00am Fellowship Time with the High 48s (North Plaza)
11:00am - Baptism Preparation Gathering (Fireside)
6:00pm - 8 - 80 AA (Community Room)
7:00pm - **Evening Prayer with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)** followed by fellowship in South Commons

A CONTINUALLY-UPDATED EVENTS CALENDAR
CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.CENTRALPMPLS.ORG

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, June 22 - Psalm 65; Exodus 7:14-24; Acts 27: 39-44

Tuesday, June 23 - Psalm 65; Exodus 9:13-35; Acts 27: 39-44

Wednesday, June 24 - Psalm, 65; Joshua 10:1-14; Mark 6:45-52

Thursday, June 25 - Psalm 30; Lamentations 1:16-22; 2 Corinthians 7:2-16

Friday, June 26 - Psalm 30; Lamentations 2:1-22; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Saturday, June 27 - Psalm 30; Lamentations 2:18-22; Luke 4:31-37

Sunday, June 28 - Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

Central Lutheran Church

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