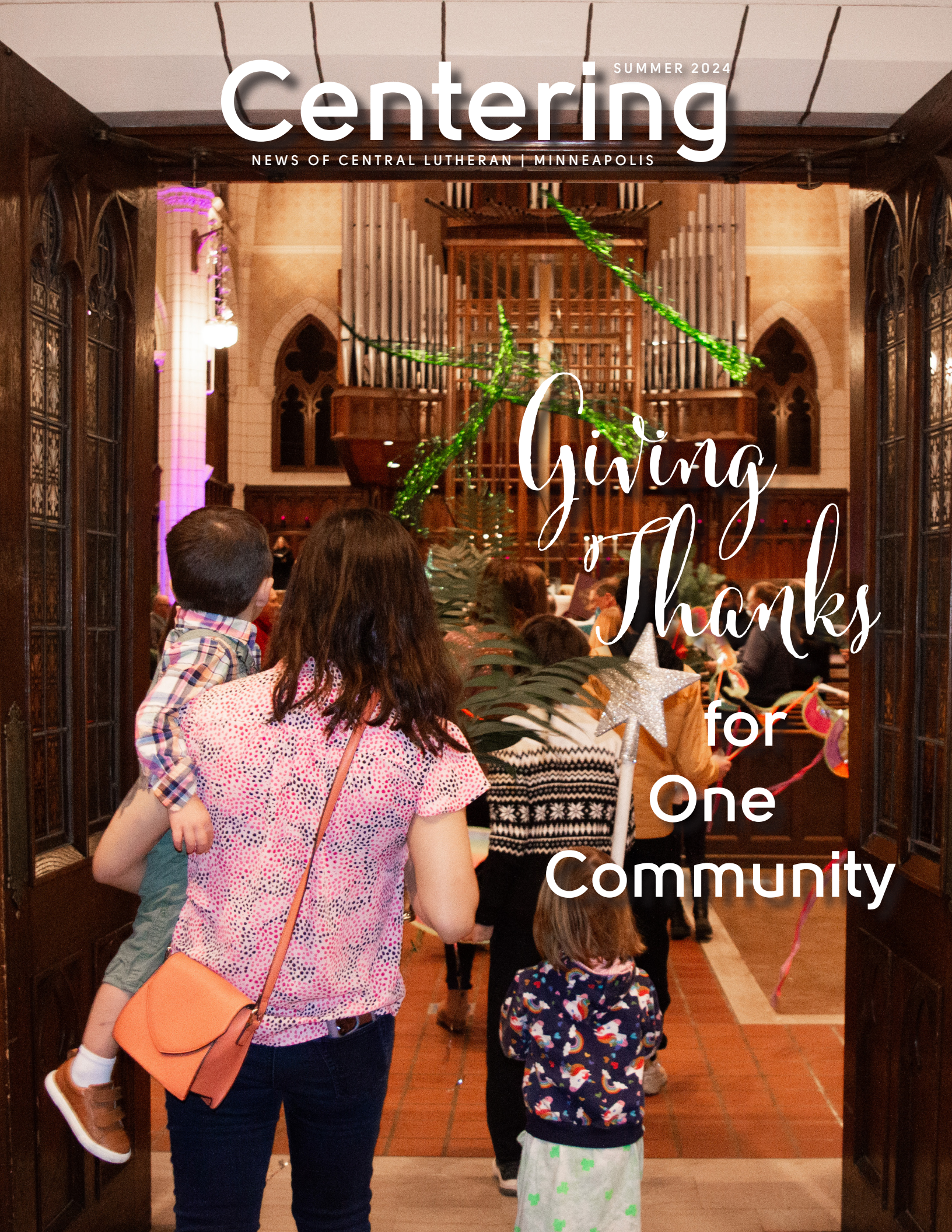


Centering

SUMMER 2024

NEWS OF CENTRAL LUTHERAN | MINNEAPOLIS

*Giving
& Thanks*
for
One
Community





“The fruit of the Spirit
is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”
-Galatians 5:22-23

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Cover art:

Children and families processing into
the sanctuary on Palm Sunday 2024.

Photo credit: Sara Masters



Giving Thanks for *One Community*

Thank you for all the ways you live your faith as a part of this faith community and in your daily life. In Paul's Letter to the Galatians, he shares a vision of what a faithful life in the Spirit looks like, naming nine fruits of the Spirit. I see these gifts at work in you and in our shared life together as one community: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Paul shared this list in contrast to the challenges and complexities of his day. We can easily make a list of the problems and issues we face in our personal lives and in the world. There is an invitation here for us to be grounded in the fruits of the Spirit and the positive energy that each gift engenders.

"They are not intended to be a definitive list, but rather the beginning of a list of all that is hopeful."

The nine fruits of the Spirit all come from a good and generous God. They are not intended to be a definitive list, but rather the beginning of a list of all that is hopeful. As you reflect on the nine fruits of the Spirit, which ones are you drawn to in your faith life? Which of the fruits do you see in our shared life together as the Central faith community? What gifts might you add to the list?

In this season of Easter, we celebrate the full generosity of God in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead. The season of Easter brings us to Pentecost Weekend and the renewed mission of the church. On Pentecost the Spirit arrives to shape who we are and empower who we are called to be as one community.

We will gather to celebrate Pentecost on May 18-19. On that weekend we also give thanks to God for all the ways you embody and share the fruits of the Spirit. We are blessed to be one community in Christ as Central Lutheran.

*Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Peter*

Giving Thanks for Generosity

The Generosity Area Mission Cluster centers on the invitation for every child of God to share their gifts of time, abilities, and finances for the sake of God's mission in the world.

Volunteer Appreciation Weekend



Warm welcomes abound on Volunteer Appreciation Weekend 2023.

The Generosity Team invites you to worship on Pentecost Weekend, **May 18-19**, as we give thanks and share our appreciation for the many volunteers who embody the fruits of the Spirit. A special liturgy in worship will lift and name the many ways we serve

together as one community. On Saturday a special happy hour will follow worship. On Sunday morning you are invited to a one community continental breakfast from 9:30-10:15 a.m. Thank you for all the ways you embody and share the fruits of the Spirit at and through Central and in your daily life.

New Member Happy Hour Invitation

Wednesday, August 14

All folks who have joined Central over the past 3-4 years are invited to the annual August New Member Happy Hour on Wednesday, August 14. The Generosity Team sponsors this fun evening where you can make connections, explore ways to share your gifts, and celebrate the ways you serve in daily life. An email invitation to all new members will follow, as well as reminders in the *Spirit*. For now, please save the date and plan to join this fun evening in our life together.



New Member Happy Hour 2023.

Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, August 25, 11:30 a.m.

The church picnic is planned for Sunday, August 25, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Once again Dave and Dwayne will grill, and great sides will be provided. There will be games for the kids, as well as adults. Save the date for this annual congregational fellowship event!



The annual church picnic is a time for fun!

Gratitude for Fiscal and Property and Personnel Committees Leaders

The Fiscal and Property and Personnel Committees provide remarkable leadership for our life together. In June, members complete their terms. We are grateful for the faithfulness and wisdom of these who complete their Fiscal and Property terms: Paul Troselius, Lynn Erickson, Steve Studt, and Franklin Dietrich. Thank you for the ongoing leadership of Karl Starr, Jerry Frick, and Julie Anderson. We are grateful to Kevin Lile who

completes his term as the chair of the Personnel Committee. Thank you for the continuing leadership of Susan Troselius, Barbara Anderson, Rexanne Spicer, and Jeff Block.



The kitchen crew has fun together while serving at the annual church picnic.

Casavant Organ Project

The Casavant Organ design process continues. The team at Richards/Fowkes is currently laying out the new windchests, and beginning to design the movable console. Much of the organ has now been rendered in 3D, allowing for a high degree of precision.

Throughout the first few months of the year (roughly January through early April), extreme dryness silenced significant sections of the organ. Cracks along glue joints separated significantly, allowing pressurized air to escape. With more humidity, those problems have mostly gone away, although a few residual dead notes remain. The glue joints are still separated, but the gaps have (for the most part) closed up sufficiently to contain the pressurized air.

During the summer, we expect to have more educational opportunities to learn about the organ, how it works, and the work to be done on it. Stay tuned for details on these dates.

Sanctuary Renewal Team update

Along with the work to restore the Casavant organ, there will be recommendations for work related to the sanctuary and facility. This work is gathered under the term "Sanctuary Renewal." The initial list of projects for the sanctuary renewal (while not exhaustive) may include sanctuary boiler / heating plant replacement, parking lot re-milling and repair, sanctuary ADA work, sacristy

remodel, sanctuary exterior tuck-pointing / mason work, woodwork repair, and long-term maintenance planning. The Fiscal and Property Committee and council have appointed these members to serve as the

team: Karl Starr, Hazel Reinhardt, Steve Studt, Paul Stewart, Bill Masche, Richard Stegall, Franklin Dietrich, Judy Hedman, Pastor Peter, and David Rodriguez.

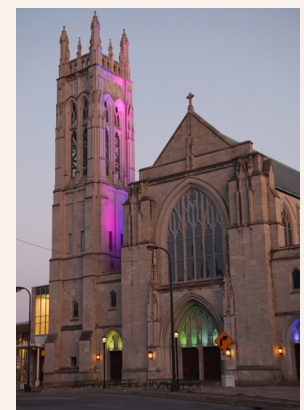
Updates and open meetings about this work will be offered as the plans take shape. Thank you for your prayers and support.



The repair process for our Casavant continues.

Summer Building Projects

Last summer we experienced two severe weather moments that damaged the facility: a hail storm and then a lightening strike. The insurance company has settled the claim and provided the funds for a full replacement of the roof on the new addition. This significant project will begin in early August and will take 2-3 months to complete. The lightning claim was also settled, the parts ordered and the work to replace the bell tower lighting and other damaged electronic equipment is underway or is planned for this summer. Watch the *Spirit* for updates on this and other summer repairs that are planned for the facility.



The bell tower lights will be replaced this summer.

Save the Date

The summer season is full of opportunities for us to worship
and be together in community.

May 18-19

Saturday

5 p.m.

Volunteer Appreciation in Worship

Sunday

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Volunteer Appreciation in Worship

9:30 a.m.

Volunteer Appreciation Continental
Breakfast

May 26

Sunday

3 p.m.

Luther Seminary Commencement

May 27

Monday, Memorial Day

Building Closed

June 1-2

Saturday & Sunday

During worship

Graduate Recognition Weekend



*The Garden Ministry Team
works hard to make our grounds
beautiful and welcoming.*

June 6

Thursday

Young Adults to the Saints Game

June 19

Wednesday, Juneteenth

Building Closed

June 23

Sunday

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Vacation Bible School

June 29-30

Pride Weekend



*Come, hear the Carillon bells
this summer!*

June 30

Sunday

Noon

Carillon Concert & Food Truck

July 1-11

Restoration Center Closed



The food trucks are coming! Don't miss Sunday afternoon Carillon concerts with food trucks.



The middle school youth will travel the Namekagon by canoe this summer.

July 6

Saturday

6 p.m.

Carillon Concert

July 10-14

GALA Choruses Festival

July 14-21

ELCA Youth Gathering

July 14

Sunday

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Vacation Bible School

Noon

Carillon Concert & Food Truck

July 17

Wednesday

6 p.m.

Summer Reads Book Group

July 20

Saturday

6 p.m.

Carillon Concert

July 24

Wednesday

6 p.m.

Summer Reads Book Group

July 28-August 2

Middle School Trip to Amnicon

July 31

Wednesday

6 p.m.

Summer Reads Book Group

August 4

Sunday

Noon

Carillon Concert & Food Truck

August 5-8

Restoration Center Closed

August 11

Sunday

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School is a fun way for kids to explore their faith during the summer months.



On the steps of the state capitol for Homeless Day on the Hill 2024.



Grillmasters Dave and Dwayne cook up a feast for the annual church picnic.

August 14

Wednesday

New Member Happy Hour

August 25

Sunday

noon

Church Picnic

Giving Thanks for Community

The Community Area Cluster centers on welcoming all into life-giving community where relationships are fostered and a range of human needs are met.

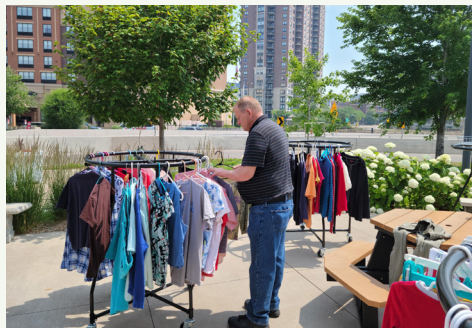
Pride Festival Volunteers Needed

June 29-30

The 2024 Pride Celebration weekend is on June 29-30. In 2000, a group of downtown congregations started a collaborative church booth at the festival. Central is looking for volunteers to help run the booth this year. The volunteer shifts last two hours and run between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. This is a great opportunity to meet leaders from other downtown congregations, share God's love with our neighbors, and join in the beautiful celebration that is Pride! Interested? Please contact Kevin Lile at klile49@outlook.com.

Garden Ministry Team

By now you have seen the beautiful geraniums and the tiny little coleus plants. The pots that face the parking lot have been planted with vines that like to climb, and there has been at least one time the Garden Ministry Team has been at church on a Tuesday night to weed. This team sees their ministry as one to the wider downtown community as many people traverse across our lawn and through our gardens on a daily basis.



The Restoration Center stays busy even in the summer months.

Legislative Update

We have been focused on three bills this legislative session: The Bridge to Shelter Act, The Bill of Rights for People Utilizing Shelter, and the Constitutional Amendment for Housing.

The first bill provides Hennepin County and a few other communities in the state funding to help them keep open good programs that had been started with federal COVID Relief Funds. That

bill has not moved forward. Stay tuned for more info as we work to secure funding.

The Bill of Rights for People Utilizing Shelter did not get a hearing in a committee before the March deadline, so it will not be moved forward this session. Our hope is to spend the summer editing the bill for more accountability and reaching out to legislators to add their names as authors, building a base amongst the committee chairs we will need next session.

Finally, the Constitutional Amendment for Housing bill will not be moving forward this session. The coalition who is championing this bill has decided it would be a much better idea for this to appear on the statewide ballot in 2026 and are working to that end.



The Garden Ministry Team keeps the grounds beautiful.



Central folks visited the state capitol for Homeless Day on the Hill 2024.

This year was a great reminder that legislative work takes commitment spread over years of action to be successful.

Align Summer Campaign

Align Minneapolis is the coalition of congregations Central belongs to that works to end homelessness together. The organizing team of Align provides focus for us three times a year and, for this spring, we are trying to pull apart the complexity of the system that homeless folks face when they are no longer housed. There are a lot of layers of bureaucracy and safety nets and acronyms to navigate when you need help. The insider language is enough to keep people from getting what they need. Even knowing what some of these terms mean or what the processes are, can help all of us understand better what it is like to be someone without a home.



Street Voices of Change showed up at Homeless Day on the Hill 2024.

From the Spring campaign guide from Align:

When an adult (without minor children) is experiencing homelessness and wants to access shelter their first call will be to the Hennepin Shelter Hotline at 612-204-8200. The Hennepin Shelter Hotline is run by Catholic Charities and includes what is called “diversion,” meaning helping people to explore a variety of places they might be able to stay without entering the shelter system. This might mean helping the person provide money to stay with a relative, providing a bus ticket to get back to their home, or mediating between them and a friend they have been staying with. When diversion is not possible, the person will be connected to the Adult Shelter Connect (ASC) line, which is run by Simpson Housing Services (under contract with Hennepin County). Adult Shelter Connect is primarily accessed by phone; when a person speaks with ASC they can request a bed at a shelter, and can express preference for which shelter, though beds are not always available at all shelters. People accessing shelter have to call Adult Shelter Connect daily to make their reservation. If a reservation is not made or unavailable during the day, a person can call back later at night to see if any beds have opened up. The uncertainty of when one will be staying each night is incredibly stressful. Barriers to accessing shelter include not having access to a phone (publicly available phones are very limited), and not calling when shelter beds are still available. Additionally, shelters can and do fill up and there are times when there are no shelter beds available.

Giving
Thanks
for

Leadership

Central's Congregation Council works with members, volunteers, and staff to imagine and implement the church's mission, vision, and goals.

From its inception, Central has a history of service and meeting the needs of the time. So, in that spirit, the Congregation Council has been in thoughtful conversation and active listening to consider how we meet the needs of this particular time.

"One Community," continues to guide the congregation and council in the values we share and the work we do here.

I am honored to have assumed the role as congregation president this year. Since joining Central in 2001, I have had the opportunity to serve on a number of ministry teams, such as the New Members, Hospitality, Nominating, and Call committees, communion assistant, and now on council. Within each team, I have experienced connection and the welcoming spirit that is exhibited here so well.

Council began the discussion around

"belonging" in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic descended upon us. Being part of a community took on new meaning as so many felt the effects of isolation. These early conversations and the pandemic helped shape the next step. In 2022 the council hosted "Advocating and Walking With" small group congregational meetings, with a focus on listening for God's call for those in need.



Central's Congregation Council at the April 2024 meeting (missing is Karl Starr and Julie Anderson).

In 2023, the council held one-on-one conversations with Central members asking three questions:

1. How do you experience Central?
2. How do you describe the Central community?
3. What are your hopes for the Central community?

From these conversations, a list was compiled of the themes we heard that reflect the values of the congregation. Some of the themes include: welcoming, acceptance, inclusivity, hospitality, worship and music, a place for all seasons, young adults, and yonnection.

The focus for council in 2024 is continuing the conversation and listening for one or two emerging themes. As we enter a time of discernment, we are committed to leaning into our strengths and values which will lead to action. Service is embedded in Central;

the council's goal is to build on that and adopt achievable projects for our strategic plan.

In John 15, Jesus tells us that he is the vine and we are the branches. As Pastor Stephanie reminded us in her sermon on Confirmation Sunday, that as branches and leaves on the vine, we abide with God and we abide with each other, too.

Please keep the council in your prayers as we continue this work and that we are open to the undiscovered possibilities.

Congregation President Rexanne Spicer

Giving Thanks for Music

Music has always been an important part of life at Central, whether singing in worship, hosting musical concerts, or enjoying the carillon bells on the plaza.

Summer Carillon Concerts

Central is blessed to have one of the three carillons in the state of Minnesota. This summer we are pleased to host five carillon concerts for you to enjoy. Three concerts will follow the Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship and will include a food truck. Two of the concerts will follow Saturday night worship and will include happy hour. Some of these concerts will be in collaboration with House of Hope Presbyterian, as we share in the work to host a world class carillonneur. Our first concert will include an opportunity to see the carillon in action up close, demonstrated by our very own Tim Short! Dates are listed in the Save the Date section of the summer *Centering* (pages 6-7).

Choir Director Search

Applications for the Choir Director position closed on May 1, after having been posted in various locations since mid-February. Now, the search committee is reviewing applications and conducting interviews. Finalists will be invited to the campus for in-person interviews, and to work with the adult choir. The newly-hired choir director will begin their work here in September for the 2024-25 program year.



People gather on the Plaza to hear the bells.

GALA Choruses Festival

July 10-14

GALA Choruses signature event is the quadrennial Festival, which gathers LGBTQ+ choruses from all over North America and the world. The festival is five days of singing, connecting, and creating. It's wall-to-wall concerts, workshops, social events, joy and pride. It's the largest LGBTQ+ choral event in the world. Choirs will perform at world-class venues in downtown Minneapolis including Orchestra Hall, the Minneapolis Convention Center, and Central Lutheran Church.

Hosts and volunteers will be needed. We will share more information in a future *Spirit*. If you know you would like to host, please talk to Judith Hedman or Pastor Peter.



There will be a food truck for some concerts.

Summer Pop-up Choir

This summer, we will have three "pop-up choir" Sundays on **June 16, July 21, and August 18**. Come at 9:30 a.m., learn a simple choral anthem, and sing it at the 10:30 a.m. service.

This is a great way to try out choir and see if you might

be interested in joining in the fall. This is open to high schoolers and adults. For more information, email Isaac Drewes.

Giving Thanks for Formation

The Lifelong Formation Area Cluster centers on lifelong faith formation where all can develop a closer relationship with God and deepen their call for mission.

VBS: Who Is My Neighbor?

In the spirit of summer learning, Vacation Bible School comes again to Sunday mornings at Central. Save these three Sundays (**June 23, July 14, and August 11**) and plan to bring your small people to church for learning and fun. Grounded in the story of the Good Samaritan, we will explore the question, “Who is my Neighbor?” in a global community. Using the wisdom and resources from our global mission partners, we will learn about our neighbors from around the world. VBS is intended for children age three through grade five. Watch the *Spirit* and your email for monthly registration. If you have questions, reach out to Pastor Stephanie or Kari Colchin.



The kids create and explore their faith at VBS.

Middle School to Amnicon

On July 28, seven middle schoolers from Central will head north to Camp Amnicon for a week of river paddling and adventures. This year kids will paddle (and drift) down the Namekagon River taking in sites that include sturgeon, bald eagles, peculiar-looking turtles, and other amazing wildlife. They will eat remarkable campfire food and sleep under the most amazing starlight you’ve ever seen on the south shore of Lake Superior. Before leaving for camp, they will learn to set up tents, pack a dry-bag, and discover the difference between wet and dry shoes. Keep our Amnicon travelers in your prayers as they prepare for this amazing adventure!



Middle schoolers travel by canoe.

ELCA National Youth Gathering

Can you say “beignet?”

A group of high school students and adult leaders will taste and see beignets at Café DuMond while visiting the Big Easy (New Orleans) to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering for a week of learning, bonding, and discovering new things about the ELCA. Every three years, high school students from around the country center themselves in a large city to experience the church in a completely new way.

This year’s theme, “Created to Be,” is an opportunity for students to gain greater understanding of the world and their place in it. The ELCA has set five learning goals for students to:

- Affirm and challenge their faith
- Experience new perspectives
- Ponder their vocation
- Bond with their congregational group
- Learn more about the ELCA and its partners

We will learn by attending mass gatherings with remarkable speakers, scholars, and ELCA leaders. We will gain new experiences through service projects and by interacting with Lutherans from around



Middle school youth gathered along the river during their summer trip in 2023.

the country. We will deepen our relationships with one another by traveling and learning together in a place that is uniquely crafted and designed for youth.



The last ELCA youth gathering was in 2018.

Since January, students have been working on key themes for the gathering that include what it takes to be brave in a diverse culture, what it means to be authentic with family and friends, what it means to be called as children of God, and what it means to be disruptive when existing structures don't serve the common good.

The students are well prepared and excited to head south to New Orleans. They will be changed by the experience and are prepared to come home and share stories of their trip to NOLA. Watch the *Spirit* for the names of participants and their adult leaders in July. Keep us in your prayers as we continue to prepare for this great adventure.

Young Adult Group Events

A great group of young adults met in April to begin planning social and service events

for the young adults at Central. Young adults, defined as those in their 20s and 30s, are planning three events between now and the end of the year, some social and some more service-oriented. We are planning a trip to a St. Paul Saints game on Thursday, June 6 and we are thinking about a visit to an apple orchard in the fall. There will be more information coming by email and in the *Spirit*. If you are in that 20s-30s age-range and are interested in connecting, contact Pastor Stephanie for more information.

Central Summer Reads

Every summer, you are invited to read a great new book with your friends from Central. The pastors are still deciding what to read this summer, but wanted to get on your calendars for three good discussions in July. The dates are **July 17, 24, and 31** and we will meet from 6-7 p.m. The summer reading discussions are typically comprised of two learning / discussion sessions followed by a presentation from the author or a scholar. We look forward to choosing a book by June 1 and will make sure there are plenty of copies available at church. We look forward to reading and discovering with you!



Summer reads will be back again this summer!

Youth Trips

Make a Big Impact

By Pastor Stephanie Friesen

Summer. It's the season when faith formation takes flight and leaves the building. It's the season when children and youth move beyond classrooms and into the world where experience is the teacher. The Spirit moves children and youth into stadiums and parks, mountains and water ways. Some travel to share music and theater; some seek wilderness adventures; others gather in stadiums to learn, worship and offer praise. Whatever the experience, summer is the time of experiential and high impact learning.

The cadence of summer learning here at Central is to offer a variety of experiences to our kids. Starting as young as three, the Sunday school children learn of God's work in the world through Vacation Bible School (offered every summer, one Sunday each month) for an extended learning time. Kids arrive to a room filled with hoola-hoops, beach balls, and summer fun, to a more relaxed atmosphere where hands-on learning centers on God, creation, loving our neighbors, and living like Jesus.

This year, the focus will be on the story of The Good Samaritan. We will explore our neighbors through a global lens, learning to love the neighbors we cannot see. Understanding different cultures through food, clothing and activities, kids will learn to love their neighbors near and far.

Amnicon is an anchor activity for kids at Central. Each summer, the middle school students spend a week on the rivers and lakes of northern Wisconsin and Minnesota learning to find God and experience the wonder of creation in the woods. Students learn to work cooperatively by paddling in canoes, eating by the campfire and sleeping in tents with friends. Under the supervision of adult

guides from church and remarkable youth from Amnicon, students learn to trust each other and grow in their relationships with friends from Central.

At Amnicon, our kids learn that they are strong and capable. Marlee Baron writes,

"Some of my best memories from middle and high school are from summer trips with Central. The trips were so much fun, and going for a week with no technology and the intensity of the wilderness created an incredible community in our youth group." Kids discover that they are equipped to handle the challenges big and



Last summer the middle schoolers took a canoe trip down the Namekagon.



Service is an integral part of the youth gathering experience.



There are great opportunities to explore vocation at the national youth gathering. And it's fun!

small, and in turn, they build confidence and perseverance.

At the high school level, students rotate summer experiences in a three-year cycle.

The ELCA hosts an event for high school students every three years for kids to gather with others from ELCA churches around the world in a mass gathering. The gatherings rotate to different cities which in the past 10 years have included Detroit, Houston, and New Orleans.

This event is designed to empower and embolden students to look with wide eyes at the work of the church on a grand scale.

Kids attend evening events with tens of thousands of other students from around the country for music

and inspiring speakers. During the day, we celebrate with other churches from our home synods, offer a full day of service to support the host city and we learn and play in an interactive learning center put together by the ELCA and its partners. The ELCA National Youth Gathering is an amazing opportunity for the kids to see the depth and breadth of the church throughout the world. Emmie Brenke says, "Summer trips with Central have always made me feel part of something

bigger, whether that's in my community or in the spaces we're in."

Another rotation in the three-year cycle is often a trip to Christikon, an ELCA camp that sits in the Absaroka Mountains just south and west of Billings, Montana. Nestled on the banks of the Boulder River, time at Christikon is punctuated by six days of mountain experiences that include hiking, learning, worshipping and connecting. In a truly



Some 20,000 youth gather in a huge stadium.

breathhtaking environment, the days at Christikon offer a break from the noise of everyday living. We worship each morning with guitars and student leaders who offer new and fresh insights on what it means to be a Christian here and now.

In the third year of the cycle, we consider a trip back to Amnicon or a learning trip. Our hope is to take a Civil Rights Tour to Birmingham, Selma, and Memphis, a trip that was planned and scheduled for 2020, but was cancelled due to COVID-19.

The students at Central are blessed by the generosity of this congregation and its many ministry partners. Stay tuned for stories from this year's summer adventures!



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

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Minneapolis, MN 55404

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Vacation Bible School:

June 23

July 14

August 11

ELCA Youth Gathering:

July 14-21

New Member

Happy Hour:

August 14

Church Picnic:

August 25

Exploring the promise of God for all

AN EVERYDAY CHURCH FOR EVERYONE

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Align Minneapolis: www.alignmpls.org

ReconcilingWorks: www.reconcilingworks.org

