

CONNECT CENTRAL

Share a Joyful Christmas at Central

BY CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

The beauty and joy of the Christmas season is here and with it brings a busy calendar of holiday activities. We invite you to share these seasonal events and worship services with your neighbors, family, and friends.

Christmas Eve Services

DECEMBER 24 - 4:00 & 10:30 PM

Share in one of two worship services this Christmas Eve. The first at 4:00 p.m. will share a live Nativity scene with our children and youth and music from a quartet. The 10:30 p.m. service will be candlelit with the Central Choir and a traditional playing of *Silent Night* on the organ.

Children & Youth Pageant

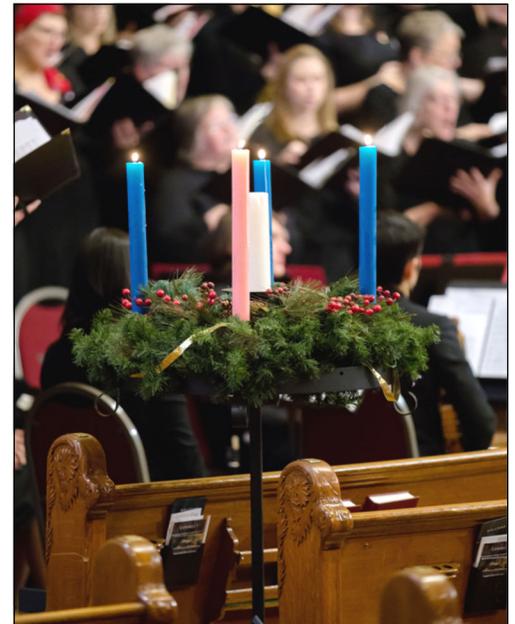
DECEMBER 11 - 10:30 A.M.

What is happening over on the old field back by the Inn? Come and see what the cows, horse, donkey, and sheep are up to - and meet a few new folks along the way. As we



prepare for a very special birth, our children and youth have an important story to tell us. And be careful! It's a construction zone!

This year's pageant was written by Jeff Jones. Pageant rehearsals are already underway and will be held during Sunday worship on Dec. 4, as well as Saturday Dec. 10 during the Deck the Halls event.



Nine Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 18 - 10:30 A.M.

Central's special tradition of Nine Lessons and Carols returns, with a full choir as well as instrumental and handbell ensembles, including baritone Rod Kelly Hines and a premiere by composer Linda Kachelmeier. This is a wonderful morning of music and message, and we invite you to hear again the beauty of the season.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4]

DECEMBER 2022

Welcome others to share Christmas at Central!



In This Issue

Share Christmas at Central	1
Upcoming Worship	2
Making Room This Advent Season	3
Opening Doors to Food Security ..	3
Growing in Faith: Stewardship Update	5
Anti-Racism Task Force Travels to St. Peter	6
Guest Organist David Fienen	7
Women of Central News	8
Beacon's Congregational Convening	8
Deck the Halls Event	9
Children & Youth Ministry News ..	10
Spark Sunday Comes Together ..	12
Christmas Greenery & Poinsettias Order Form	12
Announcements	14
Staff Directory	15
In the City for Good	16

New to Central?

Drop us an email and say hello. We'd love to connect with you!

office@centralforgood.org

Or, call and ask about our next Inquirer's Class for prospective new members.

(651) 224-4728 ext. 100

Upcoming Worship

Sunday Schedule

- 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Worship Service & Children's Education
- 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Nursery care is available upstairs from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. on most worship Sundays this month.

Worship services are streamed live each Sunday on our website at: www.centralforgood.org/stream

Sunday, December 4 COMMUNION SUNDAY

On this second week of advent, Rev. Carol Reed will preach *Waiting for Change* with scripture readings from Isaiah 11:1-10 and Luke 1:46b-55. We will share communion, Central Choir sings and we welcome guest organist, David Fienen. Learn more about David on page 7.

Sunday, December 11 PAGEANT SUNDAY

Join us this day as we witness the annual Children & Youth Christmas Pageant, with carols sung by the Central Choir and special music by Ars Nova Brass Quintet.

Sunday, December 18 LESSONS AND CAROLS

Central's special tradition of Nine Lessons and Carols returns, featuring baritone Rod Kelly Hines

and a premiere by composer Linda Kachelmeier. Worship will feature music with choir and orchestra, organ and bells.

This is a wonderful morning of music and message, and we invite you to hear again the beauty of the season. After worship, stay for a catered meal in our Third Sunday Lunch.

Saturday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

Offering two worship services this day, Rev. Carol Reed will preach *A Savior is Born* with scripture readings from Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20. There will not be nursery care services during either service.

4:00 PM - Worship features a vocal quartet and Steve Swanson on piano. The children and youth of Central will present a living nativity scene as the scriptures are read.

10:30 PM - Candlelight worship features Central Choir, Steve Swanson on piano and Melanie Ohnstad on organ, offering the traditional playing of *Silent Night*. This service will not be live-streamed due to limited light in the sanctuary.

Sunday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

On this morning, Central will offer an informal worship. There will not be Fellowship and Coffee hour after worship. There will not be nursery care services this day.

Making Room This Advent Season

FROM REV. CAROL REED, TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

For many people across this country, December is an extra busy time. There are parties and concerts, shopping for the perfect gift, lots of activity getting ready for Christmas. For the church, we too get busy this month with all the preparations for special music, the pageant rehearsals, the decorating of the sanctuary.

If you take a step back from all the activity, all the emotions, the stress and even sadness this season can hold, Advent is at its center about waiting. Most of us are not good at waiting, and I don't just mean children waiting for their stocking on Christmas morning. There is a sense of expectation in so much of what we do this month, both in the church and outside of church.

Without sounding too much like Scrooge, I sometimes wonder what are we really preparing for with all our flurry of activity?

The simple answer of course is we are preparing for the coming Christmas. We come to worship this busy month to be reminded of the message of hope that is ours through the birth of the Christ child. Our scripture readings in Advent talk a lot about darkness – even as we move towards the birth of the Light of the World. “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)

In music and scripture throughout the Advent season we will hear about the coming birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Joy to the World, the Lord is come!* – says one of our beloved Christmas carols – *Let every heart prepare him room. Through the birth of Jesus Christ, God's*

presence is being made known among us in a new and wonderful way. In the midst of all we are doing, let us make room for receiving the coming of Christ into our lives.

Blessings in this Advent season and Merry Christmas!

Opening Doors to Food Security

FROM LEON OMAN, HUNGER INITIATIVE TASK FORCE MEMBER

The Hunger Task Force has made a donation from its Hunger Initiative Grant to Keystone Community Services for its capital campaign for a vital new Community Food Center in Ramsey County. It will be located on University Avenue, near Fairview, and would replace food shelves on Rice Street and in the Midway. Fundraising continues with anticipated opening to occur sometime in 2023.

Why the change?

Simply put, the current food shelves are very small. Added space is needed to provide even more services to a larger number of people in need. The renovated space of 20,000 square feet will offer a large market area for people to select free food and household items; increased capacity to receive and warehouse

food; private meeting space for crisis assistance; and large volunteer space to handle all of Keystone's food programs and increased group volunteering. Keystone is the largest provider of food shelf services in Ramsey County.

Central's Supportive Relationship

Central's Hunger Task Force has supported Keystone Community Services over the years with many food shelf drives. In 2020, Keystone's Express Bike Shop was the recipient of funding from VocalPoint's annual benefit concerts, which raised over \$22,000 for its youth employment program.

For more information on Keystone's capital campaign, visit <http://bitly.ws/wMux>.



TubaChristmas

DECEMBER 4 - 4:00 P.M.

Central's annual tradition of hosting TubaChristmas returns this month as we welcome scores of low-brass players to our sanctuary, playing Christmas carols in 4-part harmony.

A free-will offering is received to help support Central's food program and community lunches. Want to play in the concert? If you play tuba, sousaphone, euphonium, or baritone you are invited to play! All ages are welcome; Covid vaccination is required of all musicians.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. on December 4, and rehearsal at 2:30. For more information contact Carol Jensen, organizer of the Twin Cities TubaChristmas, at (612) 788-3516.

The Giving Tree

ITEMS DUE DECEMBER 12

Coordinated Missions committee is pleased to share that the Giving Tree has returned for those interested in



donating gifts for families in need. This year, we will support three families identified through Ramsey County Health and Human Services and Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul. Winter gear is especially in need this year!

Gift tags are available on the Christmas tree in the Friendship Room and there is an online list at www.centralforgood.org/volunteer.

Please drop off presents with the detailed gift tags taped on the packages by December 12. Thank you for your generosity and for making the Christmas season special for these families.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or talk to Kelly Ishizuka.



Alternative Gift Market

DEC. 4, 11, 18 - AFTER WORSHIP
DEC. 7, 14 - DURING LUNCH

Central's annual Alternative Gift Market returns to the Friendship Room, offering unique ways to give and share this Christmas!

Donate to worthy causes, such as Vocal Point or Heifer International where you can buy a goat, sheep or pig. Or, shop for fair trade items that support our neighbors in other parts of the world. There is beautiful handcrafted jewelry, gifts for the home, and yummy chocolates from across the globe.

If you have questions about the gift market speak with Chris Smith, Denny Reimer, or Elaine Oman.

Growing in Faith: A Stewardship Update

FROM ANNA SANCHEZ, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Central has received many generous pledges in recent weeks, but still faces a projected deficit of over \$61,000 for 2023 as we work towards a balanced budget.

Your pledges help us to maintain our historic building, including upcoming plaster repair in the sanctuary. Your pledges help us plan for cost-of-living increases for our hard-working staff. Your pledges ensure that we are *in the city for good*, funding our mission to provide food, clothing, and ministry to our surrounding

community and neighbors in need.

So far, over half of the people pledging support for next year have increased their giving. In this time of economic uncertainty and rising inflation, we ask you to consider increasing your support of Central if you are able. Every dollar helps!

Please think of Central in your year-end giving, and return your pledge cards if you have not done so already. If you would like to make a gift, you may do so in person,

through the mail, or on our website at www.centralforgood.org/give.

Due to staff availability and office closure for the New Year Eve holiday, **2022 gifts being made in person via cash or check for tax deductible purposes should be received by Friday, December 30 at noon.**

Online donations may be made until midnight on December 31 at www.centralforgood.org/give.



Stewardship Pledges and Per Capita Donations are Still Being Accepted!

Per capita is a payment that Central makes to Presbyterian Church (USA) on behalf of each member of our church. It is a fundamental way in which all of the congregations of PC (USA) are connected and participate in the work of the wider church. If you have not yet contributed, it is \$36.50 per member and can be given through offering or directly to the office by denoting 'per capita' in the check memo field or on the envelope.



Growing in Faith
AT CENTRAL

WAYS TO GIVE YOUR PLEDGE (RETURN TO OFFICE)

- _____ Please provide me a box of weekly offering envelopes.
- _____ I want to pay monthly by direct bank transfer.
(Set up online at www.centralforgood.org/give)
- _____ Please call me about donating stock or other investments.
- _____ I want to make a donation by credit card.
(Go to www.centralforgood.org/give)
- _____ I would like to make a special year-end gift of \$_____.

My Stewardship Pledge for 2023 is

\$ _____ / week, month, year (circle one)

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Anti-Racism Task Force Travels to St. Peter

FROM LEON OMAN, MEMBER OF ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

The Anti-Racism Task Force led a field trip to St. Peter, MN on October 22, to visit the Treaty Site History Center. It featured an award-winning exhibit about the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux, which was signed there in July of 1851, ceding 24 million acres of Dakota land to the U.S. government.

After viewing an excerpt of the video produced by Twin Cities Public Television, *Dakota Conflict*, the group of twelve from Central explored history through large graphic panels, hands-on activities, and artifacts. We learned how the treaty came about, including the story of how white intermarriage with the Dakota community led to enormous influence on signing of the treaty - along with how cultural differences played a role, like "land ownership," a concept foreign to Indian beliefs. Promises to the Dakota community



which were broken were portrayed.

Some quotes magnified in the exhibit were horrifying, including one made by Thomas Jefferson, earlier in the century, "To promote this disposition to exchange lands which they have to spare and we want, for necessities, which we have to spare and they want, we shall push our trading houses and be glad to see the good and influential individuals among them run in debt, because we observe that when these debts get beyond what the individuals can pay, they become willing to lop them off by a cession of lands."

After touring the exhibit and walking outside on a historic Traverse des Sioux trail, our group trip concluded with a meal and rich discussion of

our engagement with history.

The Anti-Racism Task Force invites you to join in future events and activities, in a journey of faith-based learning and action.



Central to Welcome Guest Organist, David Fienen

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

On Sunday, December 4, Central will welcome guest organist David Fienen to worship.

David is Emeritus Professor of Music at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. He retired in 2011 after 38 years as Cantor at Christ Chapel and Professor of Music. Recently, he served for two years as Provost and Dean of the College, having been Dean of Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Associate Dean of the College, and Director of General Education. He also served the College as Chair of the Faculty Senate as well as chair or member of several other standing committees of the faculty.

He has served as chair of the Music Department and the Edgar F. and Ethel Johnson Professor of Fine Arts. He received degrees from Indiana University, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and the University of Minnesota. He continues his active performance career in the United States and Europe. In addition to a solo recital tour through North Germany and Berlin, he has toured Central Europe with both the Gustavus Brass Ensembles and the Gustavus Wind Orchestra. He was an artist/fellow with the Bach Aria Festival and Institute at Stony Brook, N.Y.

Since 1988 he has been the keyboardist and occasional soloist with the Mankato Symphony Orchestra, was Assistant Conductor of the Mankato-based choral group



Musicorum, and has been the accompanist for Musicorum, Minnesota Valley Chorale, and occasionally for the St. Peter Choral Society. In July 2004, he played an Orgelvesper at St. Jacobi in Lübeck, Germany, and an organ recital at the Schlosskirche in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany.

Dr. Fienen was secretary/treasurer of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, having previously served as founding president of Region III, and as treasurer for three ALCM biennial conferences. He was on the executive board of the Twin Cities chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is treasurer for the 2023 North Central Regional Convention of the AGO, and was on the board

of directors and chair of the finance committee of The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning.

He has recorded *Hymns and Fanfares* (with Gustavus Brass Ensembles) and *Let Us Adore Him; Favorite Swedish Hymns; and Favorite Norwegian Hymns* (with the Gustavus Choir), which are available from the Book Mark at Gustavus Adolphus College. He also appears as organ or harpsichord soloist and accompanist on three CDs produced by Musicorum. His current research is focused on the life and works of Jan Bender. He edited five volumes of organ works by Bender for Concordia Publishing House, published as a Commemorative Edition in 2005.

Women of Central News

FROM SUE HOFFMAN

Networking Dinner

It was a great evening at Celeste! We enjoyed great conversation and food. We will not meet in December, but will resume in January. On Thursday, January 12, we will plan to return to Celeste Hotel at 5:30 p.m. Park at Central and simply walk across the street to join us! Please RSVP to women@centralforgood.org by January 10 if you plan to join us.

Not on our mailing list? Email women@centralforgood.org to receive event announcements.

Deck the Halls Brunch

Join us on Saturday, December 10 for our Deck the Halls brunch. (See page 9 for details.) Chef Barb Westman will share a wonderful brunch including kid friendly fare. Brunch begins at 10:00 a.m., but we welcome you to gather at 9:45 if you wish for a cup of punch and a time of fellowship before we dine.

There is a suggested donation of \$5 per adult to cover the costs of food, with no donation requested for children.

Knitting Group

The Central knitters will be meeting on Sunday, November 27, in the Friendship Room after worship. Knitters have been working on making hats, scarves, and mittens which will be given to Project Home. Items can be brought to the church any time and they will be on display on the Mitten Tree at the Deck the Halls brunch on December 10. Cold weather is here and we want to help people keep warm, so all are very busy knitting!

Beacon's Congregational Convening

BY CHRISTIE RACHELLE ON BEHALF OF BEACON LEADERSHIP TEAM

Central's Beacon Team invites you to join faith communities from across the metro on December 1 for Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative's Congregational Convening! This hybrid event is an excellent opportunity to learn about Beacon's work and the tangible ways they can take action to ensure that all people have a home! At the Congregational Convening we will:

- Celebrate the accomplishments made over the last five years and learn about the bold vision, goals, and collaborative works we

will do over the next five years to ensure all people have a home!

- Launch Beacon's NEW Unlock the Metro Campaign (for Project Based Vouchers). This groundbreaking campaign that will transform how deeply affordable housing is built across the region.
- Preview the plan for this upcoming legislative session as we work on Bring it Home, Minnesota and other important bills aimed to drastically increase the funding needed to address the size and scope of the housing crisis in Minnesota!

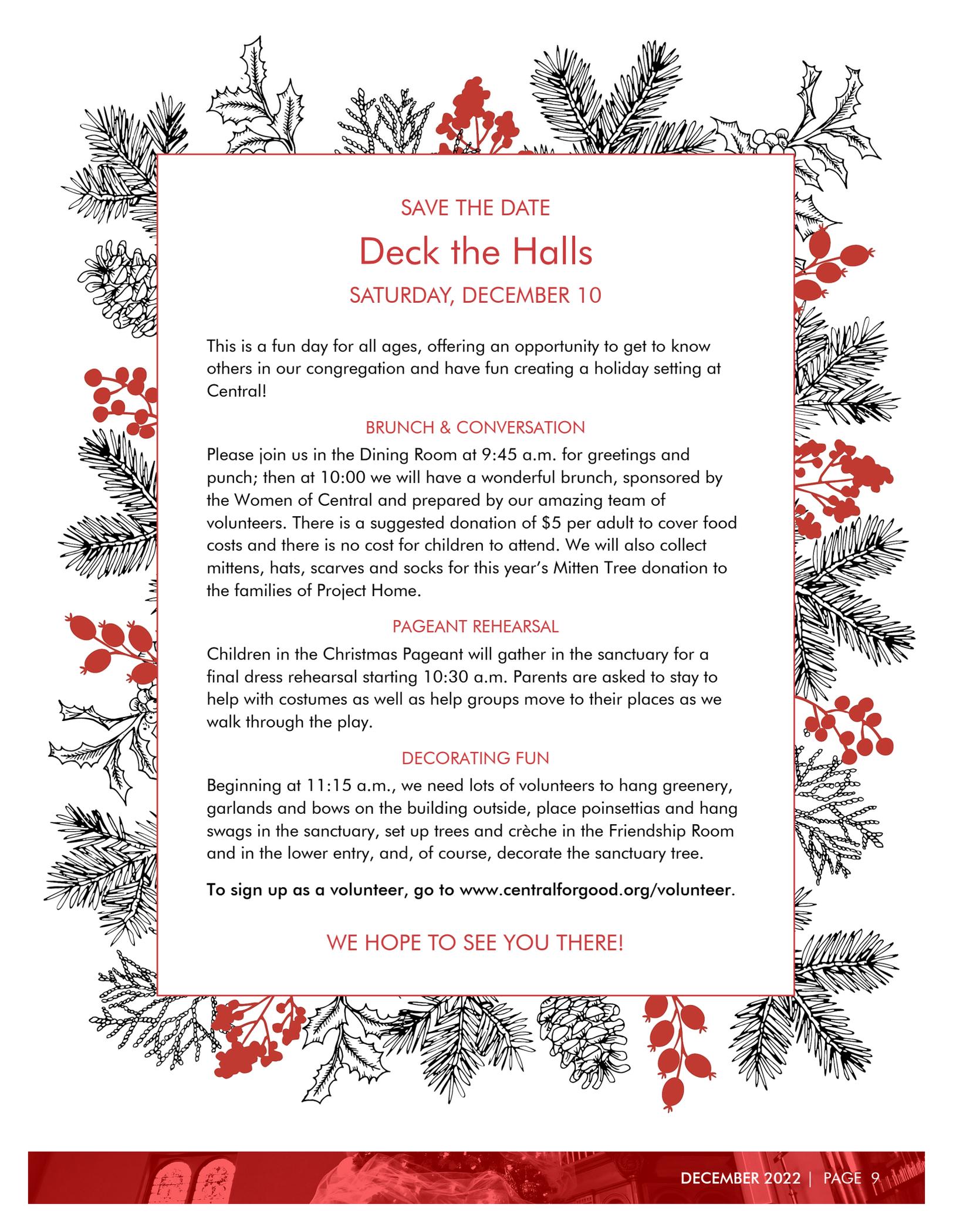
If you have a passion for people and are looking for ways to make an impact, work with others in your congregation and other faith communities, and see the living word working in the world, register for Beacon's Congregational Convening today!

Questions? Email Leon Oman at loman68@gmail.com or call Beacon's organizer, Justin Lewandowski, at (320) 250-6630.

WHEN: Thursday December 1
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: In person at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (700 Snelling Ave S, St Paul, MN) or virtually over Zoom.

HOW: Register online at www.beaconinterfaith.org/events



SAVE THE DATE

Deck the Halls

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

This is a fun day for all ages, offering an opportunity to get to know others in our congregation and have fun creating a holiday setting at Central!

BRUNCH & CONVERSATION

Please join us in the Dining Room at 9:45 a.m. for greetings and punch; then at 10:00 we will have a wonderful brunch, sponsored by the Women of Central and prepared by our amazing team of volunteers. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per adult to cover food costs and there is no cost for children to attend. We will also collect mittens, hats, scarves and socks for this year's Mitten Tree donation to the families of Project Home.

PAGEANT REHEARSAL

Children in the Christmas Pageant will gather in the sanctuary for a final dress rehearsal starting 10:30 a.m. Parents are asked to stay to help with costumes as well as help groups move to their places as we walk through the play.

DECORATING FUN

Beginning at 11:15 a.m., we need lots of volunteers to hang greenery, garlands and bows on the building outside, place poinsettias and hang swags in the sanctuary, set up trees and crèche in the Friendship Room and in the lower entry, and, of course, decorate the sanctuary tree.

To sign up as a volunteer, go to www.centralforgood.org/volunteer.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Children & Youth Ministry News

BY JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

Christmas Pageant

DECEMBER 11 - 10:30 A.M.

Thank you to Jeff Jones who has once again written the script for our children's pageant. Rehearsals are already underway so mark your calendars for the following dates.

Sunday, December 4

Rehearsal during Sunday Connection for grades K - 5 (during worship); during Life Boats (Middle School) and Compass (High School).

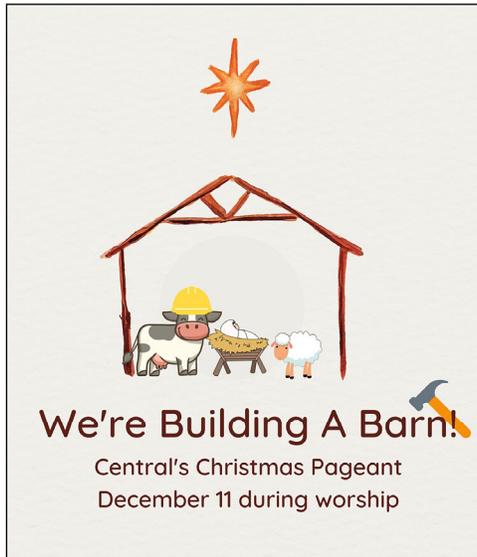
Saturday, December 10

This will be a full pageant rehearsal! Brunch will be served at 10:00 a.m. in the dining room as part of the 'Deck the Halls' seasonal festivities for all ages. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per adult to cover food costs, with no donation request for children. The Women of Central will also be collecting mittens, hats, scarves and socks for this year's Mitten Tree donation program benefitting Project Home families.

Pageant rehearsal will run from 10:30-11:30 a.m. with little ones being dismissed earlier. Parents, please be present during this time to assist with costumes, herding, and other such frivolity.

Sunday, December 11

Invite your grandparents, aunts and uncles, neighbors, Godparents, and friends! This Pageant Sunday is going to be a great morning of storytelling as part of our 10:30 a.m. worship service.



as the scripture is read. They will receive a costume as they arrive and simple instructions to participate.

Christmas Parties

**CHILDREN UP TO GRADE 5
DECEMBER 18**

Sunday Connection for children grades K-5 offers games, treats, and fun upstairs during worship! Kids are invited to come up before worship starts for this fun time together.

**LIFE BOATS & COMPASS GROUPS
DECEMBER 18 - 5:00 - 7:30 P.M.**

Middle and high school students are invited to a Christmas party complete with games, gifts, and food hosted at the Berg family home. Kati, Jeremy, Ian and Thea invite you to bring an inexpensive gift (under \$5) that can be used in a gift exchange, plus a beverage to share. Please RSVP to the Bergs or Jennifer Anderson to receive the address and help us plan accordingly.

Living Manger Scene

DECEMBER 24 - 4:00 P.M.

Join us for something new this year... no rehearsals, no lines, but yes to costumes!

Children (all ages, plus friends and grandchildren are welcome!) who attend the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service are invited to participate in a living manger scene during worship





Children & Youth Calendar

DECEMBER 4

WORSHIP SUNDAY

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Due to pageant rehearsal, it is not a Spark Sunday. We will have Sunday Connection following Time for Children.
- 11:30 Life Boats Middle School Fellowship until 12:30.
- 5:45 Confirmation Class - focusing on Mission and Service (including projects), as well as the Old Testament.
- 6:30 Compass (Senior High Fellowship) until 7:30.

10:30 Worship, plus Sunday Connection Christmas Party! Kids are invited upstairs at the start of service for fun, games, and treats!

5:00 Youth (6 - 12th grade) Christmas Party at the Berg family home until 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

There will be no nursery care for either of the worship services this day. The nursery will be open if you need a place to bring your child for a wiggle break or diaper change.

4:00 Kids of all ages are invited to participate in a Living Manger Scene during worship.

DECEMBER 10

PAGEANT REHEARSAL

- 10:00 Brunch for all
- 10:30 Pageant rehearsal (parents present) until 11:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

There will be no nursery care for this service, but the nursery will be open for diaper changes and wiggle breaks with parents.

DECEMBER 11

PAGEANT SUNDAY

- 10:30 Worship service. Stay tuned for details regarding arrival times, etc.

JANUARY 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

There will be no nursery care this worship Sunday, nor will any children and youth groups meet. (This includes confirmation class, Life Boats, Compass, or Spark.)

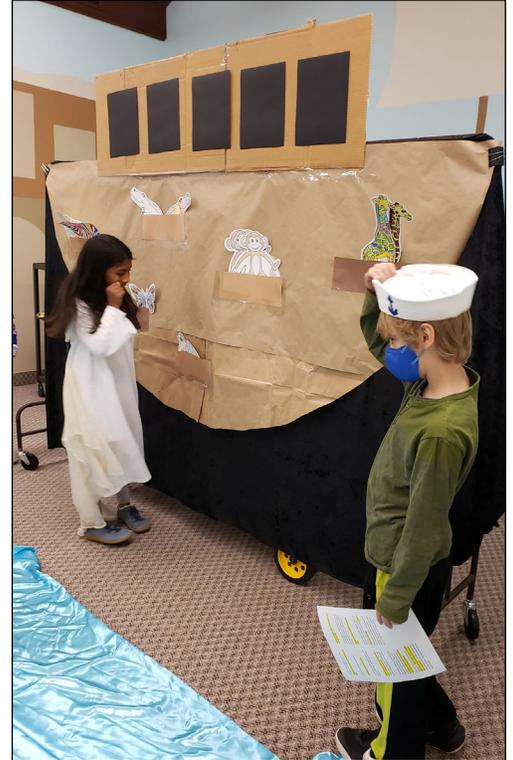
DECEMBER 18

WORSHIP SUNDAY

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

Spark Sunday Comes Together

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Christmas Greenery & Poinsettias

Orders due December 18

This December, we will continue our Central tradition of decorating the church with beautiful greenery and poinsettias. To donate to the decorating fund (perhaps in memory or honor of a loved one), please complete the adjacent form and return with payment to the office or to the Sunday offering plate.

Christmas decorations will start to take their place around the church during our Deck the Halls event on December 10. To have your memorial listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, please submit donation forms by Sunday, December 18. (Checks should be made payable to Central Presbyterian Church).

PLANT	PRICE EACH	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Small Poinsettia	\$10.50		
Large Poinsettia	\$20.00		
Evergreen Swag	\$20.00		
Evergreen Wreath	\$25.00		

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Your Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

In honor or memory of:



SPARK

GRADES 1 - 5

The first worship of each month is Spark! Sunday which highlights our children's ministry. Kids in grades 1 – 5 learn about worship in a fresh way, then share what was learned in the next week's worship service. It may be to act out the scripture, lead a special prayer, or sharing art, movement, or song.

Announcements

TO SUBMIT FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS, PLEASE EMAIL CHRISTIER@CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG.

Did You Know?

Jennifer Anderson, Central's Director of Music Ministry, was part of a panel presentation at the State Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in November! The topic, hosted by composer Catherine Dalton, was *Making Social Justice... Well, Social* and it explored how choirs can (and must) collaborate to do effective social justice work.

Central Receives Grant Award!

FROM FACILITIES MANAGEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Great news! We have been informed by the Minnesota Historical Society that Central has been awarded the grant for the next phase of building restoration in 2023!

Thank you so much for to all who donated to the *Buy a Brick* campaign earlier this year. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise just under \$30,000 which allowed us to pledge \$58,000 of matching funds from the Central community. We feel the competitive amount of matching funds was a significant factor in our success in receiving the grant.

The new grant is for a total of \$218,000 to rehabilitate the East side of our building. This will involve replacing damaged bricks in several areas, tuck pointing approximately 85% of the brickwork, tuck pointing and repairing the brownstone window sills, and sealing all the window frames. With funding secured from the Minnesota Historical Society and matching

funds from Central, work will begin in the spring of 2023 to restore and maintain our beautiful space for generations to come.

Happy Birthday!

This month we share in wishing a joyous *Happy Birthday* to all who are celebrating birthdays.

Matt Ehling 12/3
Carl Peterson 12/3
Andrea Lawson 12/6
Christopher Bremicker 12/7
Thea Berg 12/8
Alfred Zdrazil 12/8
Sharon Zopfi-Jordan 12/8
Annabelle Endres 12/9
Joan Kelly 12/10
Jane Lonergan 12/10
Kathy Barker 12/11
Aiden Flinner-Davis 12/12
Natalie Klaehn 12/13
Bonnie Joyce 12/16
Carl Willis 12/19
Virgie Bundy 12/21
Maureen Smith 12/22
Lillian Sanders 12/25

If we missed you, please send a note to office@centralforgood.org so we can update our records and share birthday wishes with you, too!

Pastor Search Update

FROM AL ZDRAZIL, CHAIR OF PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee is eagerly narrowing in on its finalists. They continue to meet at least weekly and hope to have news soon!

GIVING

Be it regular giving, special offerings, or a drive, Central offers options to fit your needs.



Offering Plate
Drop in Sundays during worship.



Donate Online
www.centralforgood.org and go to 'Give'.



Mail a Check
500 Cedar St, St. Paul, MN 55101



Text Giving
Text 'givecentral' to 73256 & follow prompts.



Deliver In Person
Bring to the office (M-F 9am-12pm).



Bank Account Transfer
Set up one time payment or recurring transfer.

Have Questions? (651) 224-4728 or email office@centralforgood.org



Welcome Returning Guest Artists!

Save the date for Nine Lessons and Carols worship on December 18 when we will welcome the return of Artist-in-Residence Rod Kelly Hines, baritone, and premier a new piece of music composed by Linda Kachelmeier. This will be a service you won't want to miss!

Food Donations Urgently Needed

FROM LEON OMAN

Interfaith Action's Department of Indian Work reports that food donations are down significantly in their food shelves.

Want to contribute right away? While direct food donations can be beneficial, monetary donations can be stretched even farther through their wholesale and culturally appropriate food shelf suppliers.

Give through Interfaith Action's website at:

<https://bit.ly/3hVzqtK>.

Office Holiday Hours

In light of the upcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays, Central's office will be closed on Monday,

December 26 and January 2.

Newsletter Contributions Always Welcome

FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Do you wish more people knew about the work of your committee? Perhaps you have a fun memory or sweet photo to share or know of important needs or amazing things happening in our community.

The Central Connect newsletter is always looking for content to tell the story of not only our congregation but also of the ministries and communities we serve.

If you have content you would like to share, simply drop an email to christier@centralforgood.org. Content for each month is due by the 10th of the month prior.

CENTRAL STAFF DIRECTORY

(651) 224-4728

Transitional Pastor

Rev. Dr. Carol Reed, ext. 102
carolr@centralforgood.org

Church Administrator

Anna Sanchez, ext. 100
office@centralforgood.org

Administration

Matt Ehling, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Receptionist

Director of Communications

Christie Rachele, (952) 564-4472
christier@centralforgood.org

Director of Music & Youth Ministry

Jennifer Anderson, ext 103
jennifera@centralforgood.org

Children & Youth Ministry

Laura Walls, Sunday
Connection Coordinator
lauraw@centralforgood.org
Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher
Maria Stokes, Nursery Care Giver

Music Ministry

Shanta Hejmadi, Abbie Betinis,
Adam Van der Sluis, Eric Bartlett,
Steve Swanson, Barbara Brooks,
Dr. Melanie Ohnstad, Rod Kelly Hines

Adult Education

Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader

Food Ministry

Barb Westman, Chef & Food Manager
barb.westman@gmail.com

Building Maintenance

Lavar Jones, Custodian
Peter Evarts, Custodian



NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT NO. 1077

500 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Thank You Ushers!

On any given Sunday you share a kind smile, hand us our bulletin, collect the offering, and offer all who enter a sense of welcome and hospitality.

As we enter into this busy holiday season, the need for additional ushers and volunteers will greatly increase as more events and visitors enter our space.

Will YOU volunteer to help?
(Sign up on our website.)

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*