

The Torch

Central Church of Christ

Sept. 22, 2015

2001 E. MAIN
STREET
STREATOR, IL
61364

(815) 673-1581

EMERGENCY
PHONE
(815) 257-1582

STAFF

Dr. Rory Christensen,
Lead Minister

Tony Ross,
Creative Arts Minister

Trenton Klebba,
Student Minister

Evelyn Taylor,
Director of Children's
Ministries

Jessica Pastirik,
Director of Involvement
Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP

1st Worship:
8:15 a.m.

2nd Worship
& Bible classes:
9:30 a.m.

3rd Worship
& Bible classes:
11:00 a.m.

4/19 Sessions: Move-Magnify-Multiply

All interested are invited to participate in the fifth of Central Church of Christ's leadership training initiative, "The 4/19 Sessions." These sessions will be held once a month on Monday evenings. The 4/19 Sessions are Central's catalyst for living out and leading others to follow Jesus' Matthew 4:19 command. Through them we are challenging each other to learn and live as leaders: those who know the way and show the way. "Everything rises and falls on leadership." This statement is true in marriage, in the home, in the workplace. Raise the level of leadership and you elevate the situation. Therefore, this 4/19 Session will focus on how to develop in this direction, as a healthy leader. Join Dr. Christensen and other ministry leaders as we think strategically in this direction. Class is at 6:15-8:15 p.m. on Monday, October 5. Childcare is provided if you would please call the Church Office (815) 673-1581.



**Operation
Christmas Child**
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Central Church of Christ has been approved to be an area Relay Center for Operation Christmas Child. So in addition to filling boxes, we will be the drop-off site for Streator and the surrounding areas. Be looking for additional opportunities to serve.

National Collection Week will be November 16-23. The truck will pull out of CCC at 9 a.m. on the November 23rd so we are asking CCC members if you would be so kind as to have all their boxes to the church by November 22nd. Thank you in advance for partnering with us to reach the boys and girls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world.

Accepting nominations for leadership at CCC

You can have a voice in selecting those who serve as leaders at CCC. As we prepare to select Elders and Deacons, please read I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9 this week and ask God to help guide you. Think of men who are qualified to serve as leaders. **Nomination forms will be in the worship guides for Sunday, September 27 and Sunday, October 4, 2015.** You may complete your nominations and place the form in the offering plate. Nominations will be accepted until October 11, 2015.

The following Deacons have expiring terms and may be nominated: Bob Brown, Kevin Missel, Michael Pastirik and Stan Tutoky.

Jim Cox, Rico Diaz, Shaun Elias, Lyle Follmer, Glen Peters, Vince Magana, Joe Skaff and Virgil Taylor are Deacons whose terms have not expired. Please don't nominate them.

Jim Blalock and Jim Bressner's terms as Elders have expired and they may be nominated.

Please **do not nominate** Roger Blakley, Troy Dimmig, Larry Evans, Todd Galyen, Tom Hallam, Scott Palm or George Smith as their terms have not expired.

Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

Believe it or not, there's an entire website devoted to confessing things. If you're struggling with something or have something on your mind, and you want to unload it publicly, evidently you can go to www.confessions.net and speak your peace. Do that today, and you'll find that you have company. To date, hundreds of people have taken advantage of this website to out personal data ranging anywhere from cheating on a boyfriend or girlfriend to expressing sorrow over hurting a beloved pet. Go there and you can read about the anguish of a kid who's keeping track of how long it's been since her parents said that they loved her. And, you can note the religious journey of at least one individual who has decided that his official religion isn't any of the popular ones. No, he's not coming out as Christian or Buddhist, Muslim or Scientologist. Nope, he's Selfish.

If you go to this website (or to any of the others geared in this direction) I think that somewhere in the midst of these confessions you'll realize that people often times share things online that they would never share face to face. The internet provides a kind of pseudo-anonymity that gives the sort of psychological comfort needed to unburden what we hold onto. While this has negative expressions (e.g. cyber-bullying, cyber affairs, sexting, etc.) this phenomenon has a positive side to it as well. The old cliché tells us, "confession is good for the soul." And beyond that stands the reality Walter Luthi points to when he says that the act of confession "in itself means help, it means being lifted out of inward loneliness, out of egocentricity, and out of a cramped state of mind" (Luthi, *Confession*, 60-61). There are burdens we carry, earned or otherwise, that confession lifts and that we *need* confession to lift. And now, because of the comfort and pseudo-anonymity provided by the internet, more people are taking advantage of this fact than ever before.

This October at Central, we're going to track with this social phenomenon and let it guide us into some productive territory. We're devoting an entire sermon series to the idea of responding to the sort of burdens and concerns we'd only share online (e.g. "I don't know what to say"; "I feel inadequate"; "I'm struggling"; "I'm scared of dying"). And as we riff off the internet in this direction, responding to these #Confessions, our prayer is that we would increasingly have God's response to the needs highlighted by this social phenomenon. Galatians 6:2 tells us to "carry each others burdens." This October, let's increase in our ability to do that.

Be bold. Stay faithful.

Rory

Your donations help keep others warm

The Streator Rotary Club and Streator Salvation Army are accepting donations for coats (mostly for children) and blankets. They will also accept winter hats, scarves, gloves and blankets. Everything should be clean and in good repair. There will be



a box in the Ministry Center Foyer for these items until October 16. Coats will be distributed at the Salvation Army Oct. 22-23, (9:00 a.m. to Noon).

A starting point for those who are new to Central

If you're new to Central (you've been coming for a year or less), you may have some questions. Come and meet our Lead Minister, Dr. Rory Christensen, and learn about Central and how to connect with others at Central. Bring your family and join us for pizza and conversation in the gym following our third service (12:30 -1:30 p.m.) Sunday, **October 25**. We hope you join us.



CALLING ALL BAKERS! CALLING ALL BAKERS! We are having a fundraiser for Central Church of Christ's youth group October 31st at Kroger. We are asking that you donate any of your favorite homemade baked goods to our cause so we can offer it to the community that day to help raise money for our upcoming youth events. Your seasonal favorites will bring joy to the people who eat those tasty treats and also provide money for our youth group's upcoming events. Please call Trenton at (815) 673-1581 if you are interested in donating some baked goods, or stay tuned to the announcements and bulletins at Church for more details. Thanks!

'Mysteries Revealed' is theme for Ladies Salad and Casserole Supper

Monday, October 12 will be the annual Ladies Salad and Casserole Supper. Just bring a salad or a casserole and the beverages and place-settings are taken care of. The theme this year is "Mysteries Revealed". Come for a night of food, fellowship, fun and games. Everything starts at 6:00 p.m. Childcare is provided, please feed your children beforehand.

Lavender Springs Spa Themed Retreat



Attention Ladies:

Doesn't a spa-themed getaway sound amazing?

Get away from the busyness of life as you relax with friends, share laughter and stories, and spend time with God. Join us at our Lavender Springs Spa retreat to experience all this and more!

Lavender Springs Spa is a relaxing spa-themed retreat the women of our church are doing together. It includes worship, Bible study, and time for laughter, as well as time for quiet reflection. We'll be focusing on the book of Psalms and will be encouraged by God's faithfulness and love.

We'll begin with light continental breakfast on the morning of October 24th at 8:00 a.m. and will finish approximately at 4:00 p.m. Our retreat will be held at Streator Baptist Camp, and the cost is only \$30 per person! This helps to defray the cost of retreat.

Call Jessica at 815-673-1581 for more information, or stop by our table at the church on Sundays to learn more and register.

Take time to relax, make new friends, worship, and draw closer to God. We hope you'll join us at Lavender Springs Spa.
Warmly,

Girlfriend's Ministry Leadership Team



Friday, October 9

Candy Land Game Night

at 6:30 p.m.

Bring the whole family for an evening of fun fellowship, as each family participates as a team in a life size game of Candy Land. Remember the fun you had or are having playing this board game with your children! Come enjoy the game, some sweet treats, and fellowship with other families.



Sonshine Singers offered for children

Sundays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. the Central Sonshine Singers will practice for a Christmas musical. This is for any child K-5th grade who likes singing and drama. They will practice every Sunday night in the Kid Central Room (West #7). They are led by Marlee Reel, Kelly Lefler and Spring Lefler. The first practice was held on Sunday, September 20 at 6:00 p.m.



Saturday, December 5,
Family Christmas
A Event for the Whole Family!



Mark your calendars
Save the date

Friday, November 6,
Mother/Son
Game Night 6 p.m.



THE TORCH

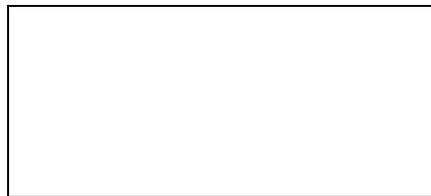
CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
2001 E MAIN ST
STREATOR IL 61364
PHONE: (815) 673-1581

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

**US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 296
STREATOR IL
61364**

Dated Material

Return Service Requested



Dear Evelyn and all the staff, volunteers, kids and families that helped with Vacation Bible School,

Thank you for inviting us to be the missionaries at this year's VBS. I loved spending time with the kids and the CCC Family. The money you raised and donated to our ministry will go so far around the world, touching lives for Jesus in over 160 countries through our website at theranch.org.

Thank you for blessing us and so many others.

Love,
Eric Elder

Baptized

- Abigail Blakley
- Chance Blakley
- Angel Garey



Offerings

Offerings needed to meet Budget-Y-T-D for 2015: \$414,810
Offerings given to-date: \$434,791

Financial Statement available at the Welcome Center or the Church Office

Statistics for Aug. 30, 2015

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----------|
| 1st Worship | 90 | |
| 2nd Worship | 266 | |
| 3rd Worship | 144 | Total 500 |
| Bible Classes | 186 | |

Statistics for Sept. 6, 2015

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----------|
| 1st Worship | 86 | |
| 2nd Worship | 270 | |
| 3rd Worship | 66 | Total 422 |
| Bible Classes | 174 | |

Statistics for Sept. 13, 2015

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----------|
| 1st Worship | 85 | |
| 2nd Worship | 280 | |
| 3rd Worship | 212 | Total 577 |
| Bible Classes | 242 | |

Statistics for Sept. 20, 2015

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----------|
| 1st Worship | 96 | |
| 2nd Worship | 253 | |
| 3rd Worship | 151 | Total 500 |
| Bible Classes | 178 | |