



# THE TORCH

## Change Is a Choice

By Joe Sanders, Senior Minister

Change always requires making choices to do things differently. It's not enough to think or dream of changing. It's not enough to feel like changing or desire change. For you to change, you need to decide and act. You must choose to change.

Change is intentional. Are you going to be any different in six months? Are you going to be better a year from now? Are you going to be healthier, stronger, and more spiritually mature? Are you going to be happier? Are you going to be in less debt? Are you going to be more like God wants you to be?

I can tell you the answer right now. Change does not happen accidentally. You need to think ahead to where you need to be at the end of this summer, this fall, this year. Where do you need to be in three years, six years, and a decade from now? I want you to be better in 10 years than you are today, but you won't be unless you choose to be.

Change requires a choice.

We must make intentional choices to grow. Someone once said, "There is no growth without change, there is no change without loss, and there is no loss without pain." If you are going to grow, you will have to change, and change means you let go of some old things and grab hold of some new things. For instance, this is the last monthly issue of this Torch newsletter. Before you get upset about the change, instead of the Torch going out monthly, it will go out weekly. This change will mean that every week, the weekly Torch email newsletter will come to your computer or device. We will provide a one-sheet list of events, financials, and obituaries that will go out once a month to those wishing to have a paper copy. This monthly snapshot will also be available in the kiosk near the K-Café. The Torch will merge with our weekly E-News and come to you every single week. The positive change is the Torch coming weekly instead of monthly.

Change happens when we let go of old patterns, old habits, and old ways of thinking.

The Bible says of spiritual change, "*Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life*" (Ephesians 4:22 NLT). In other words, let it go. Those old habits, those old hurts, those old sins in your life, let them go. To change in ways that bring God glory, the Bible says to throw former ways off and trust that God is working in you "*to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose*" (Philippians 2:13 NIV). Change is a choice.

Choose to change "in order to fulfill his (God's) good purpose."

# Central Kids

By Darlene Lamb,  
Interim Children's Minister

## Welcome to June

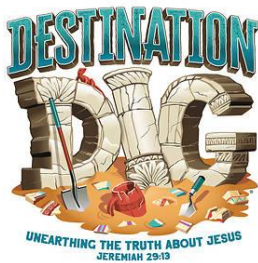
Happy June, Central Families! This is the month we get to celebrate our dads. Spend some extra time spoiling the dad in your life.

Summer arrives this month also. With summer comes water games. We'll have water games at the church on June 29 from 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Lunch will be served.

## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is coming June 7-11 from 5:30–8:00 p.m. Dinner will be served.

Our theme is **Destination Dig: Unearthing the Truth about Jesus**, and the motto is "Seek Truth! Find Jesus!" We'll explore Jeremiah 29:13: "You will seek me and find me when you search me with all your heart."



This year will look a bit different. We will be dividing our week into age groups.

- Monday:** 4-year-olds and entering kindergarten
- Tuesday:** Entering 1st and 2nd grade
- Wednesday:** Entering 3rd and 4th grade
- Thursday:** Entering 5th and 6th grade
- Friday:** Entering 7th and 8th grade

We are excited about digging deeper into the truths about Jesus!

## Additional Opportunities

Mark your calendar for some Christmas in July activities coming on July 7 and 14.

Don't forget there are a lot of camps going on at Rock River Christian camp this year!

Reminder, Sunday school is going on each week. We are so glad to see our kiddos, but we are still missing some of our Sunday school friends. We hope you can join us soon.

We are looking forward to a great summer together!

# Worship and Arts

By Tony Ross, Creative Arts Minister

## Overselling

Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which "comes upon you," but it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.

— Graham Kendrick

Worship is our response to God because of who He is and what He has done. To come to a time of worship expecting something to just *happen* is letting the tail wag the dog. We must come to a worship service already experiencing the wonders of God. We must come to a worship service ready to express our praise and fulfillment *to God because* of what we have seen Him doing throughout history and in our lives. I understand that life gets messy and hard, but if we can't see how God is working, then I think we need to spend more time with Him. If Sunday morning is the only time He's getting a second thought throughout our week, then we may get an emotional high at the time, but I don't think we've really experienced God in a meaningful way. Worship is a "conscious act of the will." This means that we must come to Him actively and often. Come to church ready to respond to what He's been doing, not just to what is happening at the moment, or what you hope will happen.

As Romans 12:1 says, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper **worship.**"

---

## Let's Connect

**Online at:**

[www.centrallive.net](http://www.centrallive.net)

**Call us at:**

(815) 673-1581

**Find us on Facebook at:**

[www.facebook.com/centrallive.net](http://www.facebook.com/centrallive.net)

**Visit us at:**

2001 East Main Street, Streator, IL 61364

**Office Hours**

Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–noon, 1–4 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.–noon

# Involvement Corner

By Jessica Pastirik, Director of  
Involvement and Operations

## Global Leadership Summit

The 2021 Global Leadership Summit is coming up FAST!  
Register today!

You have influence...and your leadership matters. On Thursday and Friday, August 5–6, 2021, join hundreds of thousands of curious, growth-minded, change-driven men and women like you for the premier leadership event of 2021: The Global Leadership Summit.

Whether you attend in-person at Central (one of 500+ host sites) or online, you will get to experience two days of rich, high-impact, inspiring sessions and learn from a diverse faculty who will share their wisdom and practical perspective to support you in your leadership growth.

Click [HERE](#) to see this year's keynote speakers.

To register, go [HERE](#) and remember to use Central's Priority Code to receive a discounted price: 21SVTEAM

Any Questions Contact Jessica Pastirik, Director of Involvement & Operations.

## Save the Date! Red Cross Blood Drive

Central Church of Christ is hosting a blood drive.

**Tuesday, July 13**

**1 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

**2001 E. Main St., Streator, IL**

Contact us at [connect@centrallive.net](mailto:connect@centrallive.net) for more information.



**American  
Red Cross**

# From the Elders

By Jim Bressner

## Humanity

God created mankind in His own image, male and female He created them.

**Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us” (Gen. 1:26a, NLT).**

“Our image,” meaning God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit! One of the ways that we were “made in the image of God” is that we were made to be in a relationship, both vertical with God and horizontal with one another. We were made to be relational beings, just as the Trinity that co-existed in three distinct persons. God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit were in perfect relationship with one another! So how can we be more relational with God and one another? We might find the answer in the reply that Jesus gave to the teacher of the law when he asked Jesus:

**“Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” (Mark 12:28-31, NLT)**

---

## Attendance

4/25/21: 340

5/2/21: 291

5/9/21: 299

5/16/21: 290

## 2021 Budget

Amount received Y-T-D toward budget: \$271,265.35

Budgeted for 2021: \$672,840.00

# Central Students

By Paul Webster, Youth Minister

## Summer Programming Has Begun

Grab a summer calendar at the Kiosk soon to see what's happening with Central Students this summer. Activities include VBS, MOVE, MIX, Mission Week, worship celebrations, small group experiences, and more!

## Parents of 6th Grade Students, Join Us June 13!

Central Students will have a special night of the Gathering, our youth group for Jr High and High School students, for our new students in 6th Grade on Sunday, June 13 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Parents, you are invited to join us that night. See what the Gathering is all about by joining us for worship, a message, small groups, snacks, and fun games at the end. Students, bring the whole family and remember to invite your friends!

## CIY MOVE in June and MIX in July

Parents, if your child is attending CIY's Move or MIX conferences this summer, all deposits and forms are past due as of May 2. These can be turned in at the church office or at the Involvement Desk. If you are unsure of your current balance for either trip, you can contact Julie at the Church office. Move takes place on Monday, June 21 through Friday, June 25 at our new location, Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH. MIX takes place on the campus of Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, IN on Monday, July 5 through Friday, July 9.

## Camp Registration and Coupon Code

Parents, registration for Rock River Christian Camp is open. Central is offering 50% off the cost of camp at Rock River Christian Camp this summer for all of our families! Go to [www.rockrivercc.com](http://www.rockrivercc.com) and click the banner to register. Fill out the online registration for your child to register for the appropriate week of camp. When asked for a coupon code, use the code **STREATOR50** for 50% off after all other discounts.



## Looking Ahead: Promotion Sunday, June 6

Promotion Sunday is coming up, **Sunday, June 6**. Here is a list of our current classes and how they are broken down by age.

**Nursery/Toddlers:** Children who have not yet entered Preschool by the Fall of 2021.

**Preschool:** Children entering preschool in Fall of 2021, 3 to 5 years old and not entering Kindergarten in the Fall.

**Primary:** Children entering Kindergarten through those entering 3rd Grade.

**Preteens:** Children entering 4th Grade through those entering 5th Grade.

**Junior High:** Teens entering 6th Grade through those entering 8th Grade

**High School:** Teens entering 9th Grade through those entering 12th Grade

Central Kids meet every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the South Hallway. Central Students meet every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday school in the West hallway and 11:00 a.m. for worship in the gym.

We also meet at 6:00 p.m. for the Gathering and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. for Connect. Please note, for our summer schedule, we will not be meeting on June 6 and 20 for the Gathering or June 9 and 23 for Connect. For a complete summer schedule, visit the Involvement Desk or check out the kiosk in the foyer or contact us at [youth@centrallive.net](mailto:youth@centrallive.net).

## Summer Calendars Available at the Kiosk

Grab a summer calendar at the Kiosk soon to see what's happening with Central Students this May through August. Activities include VBS, MOVE, MIX, Mission Week, Worship Celebrations, small group experiences and more!

## Congratulations, Graduates!

Please take a moment to look through Central's 8th grade and high school graduates on the next page. Be sure to congratulate these students the next time you see them. Thank you to all of our families who submitted photos!

# Congratulations to Our 2021 Graduates!

**Leah Krohe**



8th Grade  
Grand Ridge Grade School

**Lana Krohe**



12th Grade  
Streator High School

**Cole Alexander Lefler**



12th Grade  
Woodland High School

**Kaleb Lawton**



8th Grade  
Lawton Homeschool Academy

**Christina Lawton**



12th Grade  
Woodland High School

**Lacey Ann Mounce**



12th Grade  
Streator High School

**Isaiah M. Missel**



8th Grade  
Homeschool

**Devin Lawton**



12th Grade  
Lawton Homeschool Academy

**Ethan Warren**



12th Grade  
Streator Township High School