

## LIFE AT CENTRAL December 4, 2011

**ADVENT WREATH:** Advent is a season of penitence and preparation as we remember the Christ who came and will come again. As we light the candles each Sunday, God grant that the “*light of the world*” Jesus Christ, will shine ever brighter in our hearts and homes. Lighting the second candle on our Advent wreath this morning is the **Troost** family.

### PRAYER CONCERNS:

- **Lee Sneden** continues to recuperate at Kent Community Hospital.
- **Ann Wolters** is under Hospice Care.
- **Colleen Van Dellen** is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- **Sue Karsen** was admitted to St. Mary’s Hospital last Sunday for testing and returned home last Wednesday.

**WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY** to **Connie Gezon** in the unexpected death of her son-in-law, Paul Shriver. He was a resident of Boise, ID. His funeral will be held this coming Tuesday.

**BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING** will be available in the lower level of the Atrium immediately after the worship service.

### **ADULT EDUCATION CLASS: Spiritual Journaling: Writing Your Way To Christmas**

Drs. Lou and Mary Jean Lotz present the second of three seminars for people who enjoy writing, and who want to delve more deeply into the Scriptures and reflect on how the biblical stories of Christmas intersect their own personal stories. **Class meets in the parlor at 11:00 AM. All are welcome.**

**ADOPT A FAMILY CHRISTMAS:** It is that time of year again when we can help 4 families from the Domestic Crisis Center have a brighter holiday. Just take a handmade ornament from the Christmas tree in the Atrium. It will have wish information on the back. Please return your wrapped gift, attach the ornament and place under the tree by **next Sunday, December 11.**

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

#### **Christmas Eve—A Family Christmas at 4:00 PM**

Led by Dr. Lotz and Director of Children’s Ministries, Marybeth Timmer, this worship experience is specially geared to young children. There will be angel, shepherd, and sheep costumes for kids, and the Christmas story will be presented in a way our youngest members will enjoy and appreciate.

#### **Christmas Eve—Service of Lessons and Carols at 11:00 PM**

A traditional service of Scripture and singing that has become a Grand Rapids favorite for people from all backgrounds. Guest instrumentalists will join organist Brian Bartusch and the Chancel Choir in singing the songs of Christmas. The service will conclude, as always, with a sanctuary bathed in candle light, as the congregation sings *Silent Night*.

#### **Christmas Day Worship Service at 10:00 AM**

Dr. Lotz will preach and the Chancel Choir will sing. Please note that Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, and that we will worship at 10:00 AM, not the customary 9:30 AM.



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**ATTENTION ALL PARENTS:** Our children’s handbell choir – the **Celebration Ringers** – is up and running for the fall season and we’re off to a good start. However, we still need a few more children to complete our choir so that they can prepare to participate in our worship services. We need 2 -3 more children to make a 2-octave handbell choir. Of course, with more children, we can expand to 3 octaves. If your child is in grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, they are invited to be a part of this ensemble of Central’s music program. Rehearsal times are held on **Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:00 PM** in our Choir Room. Please contact our Music Director Brian Bartusch with any questions you may have.

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!*

**SENIORS PROGRAM & LUNCHEON: Tuesday, December 13,** promises to be a special day for the seniors of Central. We will hear a select string quartet from East Grand Rapids High School led by Mary Hillyard. Our program will begin at 11:30 AM in the chapel followed by a luncheon in the parlor. Reservations must be made by this Thursday, December 8 by calling Donna Bogert at 784-2080 or the church office. The cost is \$10 a person.

**MEN’S GROUP:** We will meet again on Thursday, December 22 at 5:00 PM at Kent Country Club. Discussion will center on “*How Do I Unplug the Christmas Machine?*” and return to the real reason for the season. All men are invited!

**SABBATICAL:** Dr. Louis Lotz will be taking a sabbatical during the month of January and the first half of February. During his absence **Rev. Jeff Munroe** will be preaching. Jeff is an RCA minister and a long-time Central member. He is a writer, a teacher, and does consulting work with churches and church-related agencies. **Rev. Mary Bos**, our Minister to Seniors, will attend to pastoral duties during Dr. Lotz’ absence. Please keep our church staff in your prayers during this time of transition.

**YOUTH AUCTION:** Save the Date! Please plan to support our Senior High Youth Group by attending the Youth Auction on **Saturday, March 3 at 6:00 PM** at Custer Office Environments. Look for ticket and auction item donation information in your Central mailbox just after the first of the year. In the meantime, please ponder and pray about how you might support our kids as they head to Belize for an incredible mission trip in June 2012 through auction item donations, event attendance and/or event underwriting. Thanks in advance for your help!

**ADDIE’S PANTRY:** For December we are in need of cereal, bottled juice, and soup. Please put your items in the shopping cart by the east entrance or in the Atrium by the mailboxes. *Thank you for your continued support of our pantry!*

**FAIR TRADE COFFEE:** A portion of the purchase price goes back to those who grow and harvest the coffee. If you would like to be a sponsor sign up in the Atrium or with Coleen Hamman. This week’s coffee sponsors are the Stratford Travelers.

**THANK YOU:** Thank you for caring for me during my recent back surgery and recovery. Your prayers, visits, and many cards upheld me. I am thankful to be back at worship with you. - **Connie Gezon**

<b><u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u></b>	
<u>Weekly Budget Requirements</u>	<u>Last Sunday Contributions</u>
\$13,235	\$9,166
<u>YTD Budget Requirements</u>	<u>Actual Contributions Received</u>
\$293,649	\$270,609

## KiDZ Central Schedule

### TODAY:

9:45—10:45 AM—Worship Centers for 4-year-olds through 4th Grade.  
10:45—11:15 AM—Joyful Noise KiDZ Kringle Rehearsal.  
11:00—Noon—4/5/6er's meeting in Classroom #5 downstairs.  
11:15—Noon—KiDZ Central Centers.

**Theater KiDZ:** Wednesdays after school 4-6 PM at the stage. Pizza at 5:30 PM. We continue choreography work with Mrs. Pratt for the Christmas play **"KiDZ Kringle"**. The performance is on Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 AM on Fellowship Stage.

**YOU-CAN-DO-IT ARTZ: SATURDAYS 1-4 PM LESSON TIMES AVAILABLE.**

**CONGREGATION:** "KiDZ Kringle" is a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas Season with the children of the church. It will be performed on Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 AM on the Fellowship Stage in the Fellowship Hall. The choreography was designed by Mrs. Brenda Pratt.

## Y<sup>o</sup>U<sup>th</sup> News

**Clubs are ON tonight.** JH from 4:30-5:30, dinner 5:30-6:00, SH from 6:00-7:30pm. SH Debate Series officially begins tonight with Todd and Dan discussing wealth and social justice

**SH Breakfast Club is at Wolfgang's this Wednesday at 6:30am.**

*(next JH "Snack Club" at Olga's in EGR is Thursday, Dec 15 after school!)*

**Upcoming meal providers for Clubs:** 12/4 – Anne Hooker, 12/11 – Elzinga, 12/18 - Tillema... Please check the [meal providers schedule](#) to confirm your availability for your assigned dates, and notify [Tara Clappison](#) if you need to swap dates with someone!

Next **youth Addie's Diner** is **THIS Tuesday, December 6.** *David J, Emma A, Ben T, David L, Collin T, Jeremiah E* are scheduled to serve. Plan to serve from 5:45-7:00pm. If you can't make it, please find a sub!

FYI: SH will be visiting Hope Network's Lawndale Home again this Christmas, on **Sunday, December 18.** We will need some drivers, and may run a little late that evening!

SH students...**It's time to register for Genesis 2012!** This is a really awesome weekend (March 9-11) at Grand Traverse Resort, full of bands, speakers, and lots of goofing around and quality time together! To register, click or go to <http://www.genesis2012.org/register.html>, and select "Central Reformed Church" from the dropdown box at the top of the form. Register IMMEDIATELY...Payments are due to me by January 8!!!

**ACTIVITIES**

Acolytes  
Banner Bearer  
Bible Bearer  
Crucifer  
Visitor Hosts  
Ushers  
Sound  
Security  
Infant Nursery  
2s/3s Nursery

**TODAY**

Daniel Jigo, Lucas Ohlmann  
Kassidy Clark  
Tori Aidif  
Erik Molenaar  
Ken & Bonnie Noorman  
Rick Davis, Greg Verseput  
Stu Stewart  
David Hooker  
Becky De Vries, Melissa Ozinga  
Heidi Bailey, Mary Jean Lotz

**DECEMBER 11**

James Ozinga, Allison Smith  
Kelley Wormmeester  
Madeline Haulenbeek  
Justin Aidif  
Roger & Mary Snider  
Tim Hoezee, David Kok  
Tom Smith  
Chris Wassink  
Deb Byl, Nathan Smith  
Kristen & Tori Aidif

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

<b>SUNDAY 12/4</b>	9:30 AM	Worship Service—Dr. Louis Lotz - <i>Communion</i>
	10:45 AM	Blood Pressure Screening
	11:00 AM	Education Hour
	11:00 AM	Klokkenkoor
<b>TUESDAY 12/6</b>	12:00 N	Addie's Pantry
	5:00 PM	Growing Central Committee Meeting
	6:00 PM	Addie's Diner
<b>WEDNESDAY 12/7</b>	12:00 N	Staff Christmas Lunch
	4-6 PM	KiDZ Kringle Rehearsal
	6:00 PM	Kindermusik
	6:30 PM	Celebration Ringers
	7:00 PM	Music Committee Meeting
<b>THURSDAY 12/8</b>	12:00 N	Addie's Pantry
	4:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting
	7:15 PM	Chancel Choir
<b>SATURDAY 12/10</b>	1:00 PM	You-Can-Do-It
<b>SUNDAY 12/11</b>	8:00 AM	Youth Committee Meeting
	9:30 AM	Worship Service—Dr. Louis Lotz
	11:00 AM	Education Hour
	11:00 AM	Klokkenkoor
	12:30 PM	Ushers serve dinner at Heartside

**CARE CONCERNS:** Please contact Carol Bergman at [clstaff@iserv.net](mailto:clstaff@iserv.net) after hours or on the weekend. Office hours are 9:00 AM—5:00 PM. Contact the office at 456-1773 or you may email [mbeebe@crcgr.org](mailto:mbeebe@crcgr.org) on Tuesday & Wednesday, or [krusso@crcgr.org](mailto:krusso@crcgr.org) on Thursday & Friday. The church office is closed on Monday.