



HISTORY

In the fall of 1998, a group of about 35 individuals gathered to establish a Bible-believing and teaching church that would be sincere in living out the Great Commission of Christ. Not desiring to be associated with any particular denomination, the group decided to call the church simply "Central Christian Church".

Central is a body of believers committed to:

- Strong Biblical Preaching and Teaching
- A heart for Community Action and Outreach
- A "cutting edge" mentality for the specific purpose of making the Gospel relevant and life-changing today.

Staying true to our mission, God has blessed Central in many ways. Since its inception, our attendance has grown greatly and many people have given their lives over to Jesus Christ. We have seen many great things over the years, but we focus on the even greater things that we feel God has in store for us in the future. Many people have become part of Central but our prayer is many more will also experience that atmosphere of warmth, caring, forgiveness, and genuine love that can only be found in the family of God.

In 2011, the members of Central Christian Church established Core Values, to help further define their identity and plans for Christ's church.

OUR STATEMENTS

Our Mission Statement

Equipping people to use their God-given passion and purpose in life.

Our Core Values

Jesus is Lord and Savior

Jesus Christ is the one and true Son of God the Father. Jesus was with the Father during the creation of the world and continues to sit on the right hand of God. Jesus was born from a virgin birth, baptized by the Holy Spirit, was crucified on the cross, and rose again for the forgiveness of sins. We believe Jesus is the one and only way to salvation and eternal life with God the Father.

Biblical Authority

We believe that the word of God is sufficient as our sole source of authority. One of the names of Christ is Wonderful Counselor, He is the highest and ultimate One to whom we may turn in counsel. Scripture is so powerful and comprehensive that it can convert or transform the entire person changing someone into precisely the person God wants them to be. The bible is God's standard for judging the life and eternal destiny of every person.

The Power of Prayer

We understand that prayer is our direct link to God and by offering our prayers and praises; we will connect with Him on a more intimate level. Prayer is a weapon against evil, a tool to overcome temptation, an agent for healing and a way for us to focus on others and God instead of ourselves. God will provide everything we need when we are faithful in prayer.

Personal Holiness

If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? We believe that God has called us as Christians to stand out, to be different, to be a light on the hill, in order that God's love can be communicated to unbelievers, not just through our words, but through our actions. We strive to live according to God's word. Knowing that we can never be perfect, we thank God for his mercy and forgiveness which inspires us to forgive those who have sinned against us.

Lost People Matter

We believe lost people matter to God and are hopeless without Him. Everyone who calls on the Lord's name will be saved. But they can't call on Him unless they have first heard about Him and then believed in Him. We must reach our friends, family, and community with this message. We must equip each follower to share Christ, develop relationships with the lost, understand the process of evangelism, and balancing ministry to give a clear and compelling presentation of the gospel. As believers we must act with sympathy, love, compassion and humility. Central Christian is a place where you can belong before you believe.

Building a Family of Faith

People need close relationships where they can love and be loved, know and be known. In fact, it is in relating with others and participating in community that profound life-change takes place within the individual. We emphasize the importance of fostering unity within the Central family, being eager to reconcile our conflicts and maintain a spirit of peace in honor of Jesus Christ. We value building up strong marriages and families, where God's love is taught and lived out, where husbands love their wives as Christ loved the church, where wives respect their husbands, where the hearts of the parents are turned toward their children, and the hearts of the children toward their parents.

Our Vision Statement

Central Christian Church desires to be a family place. A place of closer relationships, where everyone who attends can love and be loved, know and be known. Central will be a safe haven where profound life-change takes place within the individual. A community known for building up strong marriages and families, where God's love is taught and lived out, where husbands love their wives as Christ loved the church, where wives respect their husbands, and where the hearts of the parents are turned toward their children, and the hearts of the children toward their parents.

Central Christian Church is a place where the lost, the hurting, the lonely can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance, encouragement and purpose. This is a place where you can belong before you believe.

We envision Central members being called to a life of personal holiness, living lives of obedience, living in submission to God's will, and living with a sense of God's presence. We dream of developing people into spiritual maturity through Bible studies, small groups, seminars and retreats. We dream of equipping every member for a meaningful ministry by helping them discover and utilize the spiritual gifts which God has given them. We dream of sharing the Good News of Jesus with thousands of residents in the west central part of Iowa. We dream of a prayerful church where we believe God can work His power through our prayers and trust that He will. God will provide everything

we need when we are faithful in prayer.

We dream of sending career missionaries around the world, and empowering every member for a personal life mission in the world including sending them on short-term missionary trips to every continent. We dream of welcoming 1,000 members into the fellowship of our family - loving, learning, laughing, praying and living together in harmony.

We dream of beautiful, yet simple, facilities including a family worship center seating hundreds, a counseling and praying center, classrooms for Bible study, a multi-purpose center for fellowship and recreational activities, athletic fields and an attractive courtyard - all of this will be designed to minister to the total person (spiritually, emotionally, physically and socially) in a peacefully, picturesque landscape. We state with confidence that this future vision will become a reality!

Why? Because we believe that it is pleasing and praising to our God, as well as, inspired by Him! Everything is for His glory! "Forever" - That's Eternity!

WHAT WE BELIEVE

God is One in Three

We believe that God is One in Three Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We hold to the doctrine of the Trinity. All three Persons are co-equal and co-eternal.

Where the Bible Speaks We Speak

We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God. We believe that the New Testament is the new covenant by which all believers are to follow as the standard of faith and practice. We acknowledge the Old Testament is a school master which shows the sinfulness of man, as well as, points to Jesus the coming Messiah. We follow no creed but Christ. We believe that where the Bible speaks, we speak; where the Bible is silent we are silent. We believe that in essentials unity, in opinions liberty, and in all things love.

Jesus is the Christ

We Believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God. We believe that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary and was tempted in all ways as we are, yet was without sin.

The Holy Spirit Empowers Christians

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the God-head (Trinity). The Holy Spirit dwells with a person when they become a Christian and empowers the believer for works of service and sanctification. The Holy Spirit is our Helper in our walk of faith. The Spirit gives gifts to all believers for the purpose of mutual encouragement and edification for the growth of the Body of Christ.

Everyone Sins

We believe that mankind is evil from its youth, and that at an early age in a person's life he or she will sin against God. We believe that all sinners are bound to hell without faith in Christ. We believe that man, who was created in the image of God, became depraved through sin. Such a fallen nature is seen in every sinner. We believe in a literal hell which is called the lake of fire that burns forever.

We Are Saved by Grace

We believe that we are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Grace is God's unmerited favor towards the sinner. Faith is the total trust in Jesus Christ, and His death, burial, and resurrection. We believe that upon reception of the Word of God that each believer must be immersed (baptized) in water as were the first Christians beginning in Acts 2. Good works are the natural outcome of a dynamic faith.

One Body

We believe that all immersed believers in Christ constitute One Body, the Church. We recognize that in the New Testament, there were autonomous churches of Christ. The oversight of the churches were left to the pastors/elders, while ministries were carried on by servants. Deacons and deaconesses were also utilized in the Church to help administer the different ministries. The elders were appointed by the Apostles and/or evangelists who helped establish and nurture churches. We believe in the priesthood/ministry of all believers. We believe that in Christ we are all equal, although our faith and function differs. We believe that unity of believers and purity of doctrine are to be sought.

Jesus is Coming Back

We believe in a literal, second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Such a return will be a sudden, glorious, spectacular coming of Christ for His Church. God will judge all unbelievers at the white judgement throne with the result of their being cast into eternal punishment. All believers shall be judged and rewarded according to their works, yet all shall enter eternal life in heaven. Jesus is Coming Back!

MEMBERSHIP AT CENTRAL

Membership Rewards –what I receive as a member

1. Membership identifies a person as a genuine believer – Eph. 2:19; Rom. 12:5
2. Membership provides a spiritual family to support and encourage you in your personal walk with Christ – Gal. 6:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25
3. Membership gives a person a place to discover and use his or her spiritual gifts in ministry – 1 Corinthians 12:4-27
4. Membership places a person under the spiritual protection of godly leaders – Hebrews 13:7, 17
5. Membership gives a person accountability needed to grow – Ephesians 5:21

Membership Requirements – how I become a member

1. Through a public profession of faith in Christ as Lord and Savior during a worship service
2. Through Baptism by immersion

Also, prospective members are strongly encouraged to take the "My Fresh Start" classes before making this important decision.

Membership Responsibilities – expected of members

1. I will safeguard the unity of Central – by acting in love towards other members (1 Peter 1:22), by refusing to gossip (Ephesians 4:29), and by following the leadership (Hebrews 13:17).
2. I will share the responsibility of Central – by praying for the growth of the church (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3), by inviting people to attend (Luke 14:23), and by warmly welcoming those who visit (Romans 15:7).
3. I will serve the ministry of Central – by discovering and using my gifts and talents (1 Peter 4:10-11), by being equipped to serve (Ephesians 4:11-16), and by developing a servant's heart (Philippians 2:3-4,7).
4. I will support the testimony of Central – by attending faithfully (Hebrews 10:25), by living a godly life (Philippians 1:27), and by giving regularly and generously of tithes (10%) and offerings (1Corinthians 16:1-2; Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:7-12).
5. I will become a member of a Central small/connection group, meeting faithfully as those did in the early church (Acts 2:42-47).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q:What denomination is Central Christian Church?

A: Central Christian Church is a nondenominational, independent Christian Church centered on Jesus Christ, governed by the Word of God, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live out the command of Jesus to take the Gospel to every person in the world.

Q: How do I get connected in a small group?

A: We will help you get connected with a small group. If you have a friend at Central you can also ask if they have room for an extra in their group.

Q: How old is Central?

A: Central was first started in 1998 by a core group of about 35 people. It has continued to thrive and serve ever since.

Q: I want to place my membership at Central. How do I do it?

A: We encourage you to come to our “*My Fresh Start*” class to learn the ins and outs of our church mission and vision before you make the very important decision of membership. “*My Fresh Start*” meets for 4-week periods throughout year so you will be able to attend one soon. See the “Membership” tab elsewhere in this packet for detailed info on membership at Central.

Q: Why do we take communion every week at Central?

A: According to the examples of Acts 20:7 & 1 Corinthians 11:20 the early church gathered together on the first day of the week and when they gathered they shared the Lord’s Supper.

YOUTH PROGRAM

The youth of Central are an integral part of our family.

Sunday Morning Youth Program

On Sunday mornings, we offer a nursery for children aged infant through 36 months, a 3-5 year old class (offered for the entire worship service) and children’s worship classes in two groups: kindergarten through 2nd grade and 3rd–5th grade. *For more questions about the youth program (Preschool-5th grade), see Amy Rydl.*

Middle/High School Youth Group

Central Christian Church’s Youth Group Ministry exists to reach non-believing students, to connect them with other Christians, to help them grow in their faith, and to challenge their growth to discover their ministry and honor God with their life.

Meeting each Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m., Central’s Middle/High School Youth Group lives by the motto, “win, build and send.” The mission statement is “To present Central Youth with the solid foundational teaching of scripture for salvation and equipping for evangelism to win, equip and send this generation for Jesus Christ.”

The group seeks to grow spiritually and have fun doing it. Aside from weekly meetings, we strive to offer extracurricular activities to increase the fellowship and unity within the group.

We are raising up teenagers to succeed, to be passionate for God and use their strengths and talents to glorify God! *For more questions about the youth group, see Jon Sampson.*

Special Programs

There is a Vacation Bible School every summer as well as special programs throughout the year for children to share, including a Christmas program.

For more questions about special programs (K-5th grade), see Tammera Sampson.

SMALL GROUPS

Those who attend Central Christian quickly become aware of

the wonderful family atmosphere in our church. Genuine fellowship is one of the main purposes of our church which we have made a priority, because we know it plays a significant role in many changed lives at Central.

Small groups allow everyone to experience the encouragement and uplifting of our Sunday family worship as well as the close, comfortable, open-air of an intimate circle of friends. These groups are already in place and we will add more as need arises.

Those that are involved will be quick to tell you that they look forward to their small group night every week. **We want to encourage you to get involved!** Your small group participation will encourage true fellowship and spiritual growth in your life. These two attributes will bring life-giving energy to your spirit. Don’t spiritually disadvantage yourself by not being involved. People often think that they are too busy to meet during the week for a small group but we like to say that we are too busy **NOT** to experience the uplifting of meeting with our Small Group family. We would love to have you!

If you would like to get involved, call – **792-0852** or email pas-torryan@centralcares.org. Or, do you have a friend at Central? Ask them if they have room for an extra in their group.

PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING

“For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to me. Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of these brothers, you did it to Me.” ~Matthew 25:35-40

There are many needs that arise emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually. We believe that the church family has a responsibility to take care of the members of our body as well as the members of the community in which we minister. Central makes the effort to meet these needs in the following ways:

- Hospital Visitation - Providing Communion, Empathy & Prayer for those sick and hospitalized.
- Biblical Counseling - Understanding that no person gets through life without some spiritual or emotional wounds, this ministry uses the time-tested principals of the Bible to effect positive change in the lives of those struggling in this way.

If you have any needs please contact the church office at **792-0852**. You can feel comfortable knowing that all counseling is completely confidential.

CENTRAL STAFF

Ryan Gallegos

Lead Pastor



Pastor Ryan came to Carroll in January 2012 from Brownsburg, Indiana -- outside of Indianapolis. He served as associate pastor at The Blended Church in Indy for 7 years before coming to Carroll. He has been in the ministry for over ten years, leading as a youth pastor as well as a variety of other capacities.

He thrives on changed lives and is willing to do anything short of sin to bring people to Christ. He’s not a typical pastor nor is he content to maintain the status quo. He brings energy, excitement, and imagination balanced with experience, insight, and practicality. Underlying all of this is a passion to see lives transformed by God’s Spirit. Allowing everyone to experience His amazing love and helping people to pursue the life He designed them for.

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Pastor Ryan and his wife Mary have two children -- Chloe and Jireh.

Darrin Kozak

Music Minister



Darrin has been the Worship Minister of Central Christian since November, 2000. Before that he spent about fourteen years ministering through music with a traveling ministry. Darrin also has had many years of local and summer stock theater and stage experience as well as 18 years of radio work, all of which he is putting to use within the church. He has always felt that

his calling was to serve God by creatively sharing the Gospel of Christ through modern media and the arts. Darrin's desire is to help breath new life into the local church. He wants to minister to people who have drifted away from the church and those who have never attended because they feel it isn't relevant today. His passion is helping them see that God *is* alive and well and that he understands us and loves us as we are in today's world.

Darrin and his wife Kathy have three daughters, Alison, Erica, and Katelynn.

USING YOUR GIFT TO GET CONNECTED

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
~Ephesians 2:10

We encourage everyone to be involved at Central. You can request a list of ministries that may fit your gifting. Perhaps you can think of a way to serve that we do not already have here at Central. Come let us know! We are not interested in people serving at Central for the sake of serving. We are also not interested in people serving just for the sake of making the load lighter for everybody else. We ARE interested in people serving so that they can put their God-given gifts into action. We firmly believe that this is what you were made for and that this service will bring joy and fulfillment to your life. You were shaped to serve God and we want to offer you that opportunity-one that is uniquely suited to the talents that God has given to you. *"Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others."* ~1 Peter 4:10

CHOOSING A CHURCH HOME

by John MacArthur

What do I look for when choosing a new church home?

We've all heard that the choice and purchase of a home is one of the most significant decisions a person will ever make. In this temporal world that may be true. However, choosing where you and your children will learn the things of God and serve the Lord Jesus Christ has eternal ramifications.

Investigating It's Foundation

There are four main components that make up the foundation of a strong local church:

1. **A Proper View of Scripture.** When investigating a potential church home, pay particular attention to how it views the Bible. Does it hold to the inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures? Does it believe the Bible is the only rule for faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20- 21)?
2. **An Emphasis on Bible Teaching and Preaching.** Observe what kind of preaching is done. Is it primarily expository, topical, or evangelistic in nature? Is the main diet repetitive salvation messages each week, or are believers being fed from the Word (Acts 20:27; 1 Timothy 4:13-16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5)? There

should be a strong commitment to high-quality Bible teaching.

3. **Doctrinal Soundness.** Just as you would inspect the soundness of a house's foundation, so you should investigate the doctrinal stance of the churches you visit. Where do they stand on such crucial issues of the Christian faith as the virgin birth and deity of Jesus Christ; the depravity of mankind; the work of Christ on the cross; His death, burial, and bodily resurrection; salvation by grace through faith; the second coming of Christ; and the ordinances of baptism and communion?
4. **Doctrinal Practice.** Observe whether the church practices the doctrines it claims to believe and teach. As James said to the church at large, "Prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves" (James 1:22; cf. Luke 6:46; John 13:17).

Seeing How It Functions

As you observe how a church functions, look for an emphasis on worshipping God. See if the leadership stresses the importance of honoring and glorifying God in all things (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17). Also observe the involvement of the individual members. Do they exercise their spiritual gifts among the Body of Christ (Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Peter 4:10-11), or do they seem to expect the pastor to do everything?

Does the church emphasize evangelism as one of its primary functions? Are home and foreign missions an important part of its ministry (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)? What about discipleship? Do you see church members and leaders seeking to make disciples and reproduce themselves in the lives of others (2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 2:3-7; Matthew 28:19-20)?

The leadership of the church you choose should be committed to teaching and supporting God's design for the family (Ephesians 5:22-6:4; Colossians 3:18-21; Titus 2:1-8; 1 Peter 3:1-7). Does the church schedule contribute to or take away from the strength of the family?

Checking Its Environment

Certain observable factors contribute to the overall atmosphere of a local church. Those environmental components are usually manifested in attitudes:

1. **A High View of God.** Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." It should be obvious that the people, from the leadership down, focus on the glory and majesty of God. Do they take God seriously and exalt Him in all they do? Their view of God will affect every aspect of their lives and ministry. Ask yourself if God is the focus of their worship or if they're preoccupied with each other or themselves.
2. **The Presence of a Sincere Faith.** Is it obvious to you that the church lives and operates by faith? Are the people willing to trust God (Hebrews 11:1, 6; Ephesians 3:20; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:24)?
3. **Spirit of Sacrifice.** Can you see that the church members are willing to sacrifice themselves and their possessions to advance God's kingdom (Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 8:3; Matthew 6:33)? Do you sense they would sacrifice themselves for one another (Philippians 2:3-4; John 15:13; Ephesians 5:1-2)?
4. **Spirit of Unity.** This is often the most obvious attitude radiating from a local congregation. An outsider is usually able to sense very quickly whether a church is unified in its ministry. That has a great effect on its testimony to the community and reflects on the name of our Lord (John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17, 3:1-9; Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 2:1-5, 4:1-5). Choosing a church home is one of the most significant decisions you will ever make — one that reaches into eternity. May each of us spend at least as much time and effort making that decision as we do deciding on our earthly dwelling.