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## **Youth and Family Minister in Alaska, the Last Frontier**

Enjoy the excitement of living in the beautiful state of Alaska as part of the Central Lutheran Church Ministry Team in Anchorage. The Youth and Family Minister will seek to develop a holistic ministry involving the entire congregation in supporting family relationships and integrating families — parents and children from birth through high school particularly — into the worship, the fellowship, and the serving life of the congregation and its reach out to the community, including the neighborhood and its families and youth. More specifically, the Youth and Family Minister will provide leadership and spiritual direction to the Youth and Family Ministry of Central Lutheran Church through discipleship, worship, coordinated education, leadership training, small group studies, retreats, social functions, camping opportunities, and mission and serving opportunities as part of the overall ministry of the congregation.

This is a full time position with flexible hours. Preference will be given to applicants with a bachelor's degree with a related major and/or equivalent experience. Salary DOE and some benefits are included.

The complete job description follows below. For more information or to submit a resume and cover letter, please call the church office 907-277-1622, fax 907-272-6235, write to 1420 Cordova Street, Anchorage, 99501, or email [centsmith@gci.net](mailto:centsmith@gci.net).

Deadline for applications is November 16, 2009, with anticipated starting date of January 1, 2010.

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**CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1420 CORDOVA STREET  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501  
(907) 277-1622**

**Position: Youth and Family Minister**

**The family of Central Lutheran Church comes together in the Word and goes out  
proclaiming God's presence, love, and power.  
Coming and going . . . all we do is for the worship of God.**

**Description:** The *Youth and Family Minister* is a full-time paid staff member of Central Lutheran Church, who serves with the pastors as a part of a Ministry Team dedicated to working with children, youth, families, the congregation, and the community in proclaiming God's presence, love, and power through growth in faith and spiritual life, and through learning to love and serve God and our neighbors as ourselves. In that team relationship the Youth and Family Minister will be supervised by the pastors and accountable to the Personnel Committee and the Church Council, while serving directly with the Youth and Family Ministry Committee, the Education Committee (Sunday School Superintendent), and the Worship Committee.

As part of the Central Lutheran Ministry Team, the Youth and Family Minister will seek to develop a holistic ministry involving the entire congregation in supporting family relationships and integrating families — parents and children from birth through high school particularly — into the worship, the fellowship, and the serving life of the congregation and its reach out to the community, including the neighborhood and its families and youth.

More specifically, the Youth and Family Minister will provide leadership and spiritual direction to the Youth and Family Ministry of Central Lutheran Church through discipleship, worship, coordinated education and leadership training, small group studies, retreats, social functions, camping opportunities, and mission and serving opportunities as part of the overall ministry of the church.

**Goals:**

As the result of this ministry, the youth and their families will:

1. Know God's grace and love and connect with each other as youth, as parents, and as families living with the hope of God's children and proclaiming His presence, love, and power.
2. Develop a faith that guides them in decisions and choices now and throughout their lives.
3. Be supported along the various milestones of their faith journey from birth to young adults and beyond by a network of significant people of all ages in the Central family, including peers, family members, congregation mentors, and others.
4. Discover and strengthen their God given gifts and be given purposeful opportunities to use them now and throughout their lives.

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5. Understand ministry as always welcoming and caring for people as God's children regardless of their race, religion, economic status, age, sexual orientation, or beliefs.
6. Be active in the worship and fellowship life of the congregation and understand that all they do is for the worship of God.
7. Understand and live a life that not only connects individual youth and parents to each other in love and respect but to their Central family on a personal and familial basis.
8. Continue to be connected to the church family after the youth have left home for college or other career choices.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

The Youth and Family Minister, understanding that neighborhood youth and their families — especially the Drop In Center youth — must be involved, will:

1. Encourage and oversee, in collaboration with the pastoral staff, a congregational Youth and Family Ministry Committee. This committee of lay leadership will help in planning and implementing the youth and family ministry.
2. Take appropriate and intentional action to lead the congregation to understand that the whole church is involved in the extended concept of youth and family ministry, in which all members of the church family are considered integral.
3. Develop and provide experiences that ensure relationships of children, youth and parents to one another, to the congregation, and to the wider church.
4. Lead, along with the Ministry Team, the integration the Youth and Family Ministry program into all aspects of the congregation life to accomplish the goals of the Youth and Family Ministry including, but not limited to:
  - a. Education: Provide input and cooperation with the Sunday School Superintendent, teachers, and Education Committee to ensure that the curriculum meets the needs of the Youth and Family ministries program, that parents and other adults are involved in teaching classes, and that both youth and their parents can study, understand and discuss what is being taught in classes. In addition, the Youth and Family Minister will provide leadership in other educational activities such as Vacation Bible School and summer camps.
  - b. Youth Groups: Provide leadership for youth groups of all ages — elementary, confirmation, high school — ensuring that the activities are aligned with the goals of the program and that parents and other members of the congregation are involved in the teaching, mentoring, modeling, and fellowship experiences of the groups. This may include recruiting, training, and developing a cadre of adults to serve in this capacity.
  - c. Worship: Work directly with the Ministry Team and the Worship Committee to ensure that youth of all ages, as appropriate, will participate weekly in the worship services at Central through such actions as, for example, reading, ushering, praying, music, and drama; that youth and their families understand the importance of attending worship services as a part of their spiritual life and growth; and that all we do is for the worship of God.

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- d. Fellowship: Lead the youth and their families in understanding that “loving your neighbor” is strengthened through relationships with others and that an important part of the relationship building in the Central family comes through fellowship events and activities. The Youth and Family Minister will lead the youth and their families and the Youth and Family Ministry Committee in planning fellowship events for the youth and/or their families that will bring them into closer relationships. In addition, the Youth and Family Minister will encourage youth to participate in the general congregational life and fellowship of Central, as well as in youth activities.
  - e. Outreach and Serving Others: Will lead youth and their families in meaningful opportunities for outreach and serving others in the congregation, the neighborhood, and the community on a regular basis; and will help them understand that serving others means meeting the needs of people on a daily basis at home, in church, and in the neighborhood as well as traveling for a service project.
5. Take action weekly to ensure that the congregation is very aware of the Youth and Family Ministry program, who the Minister is, and what is happening and being accomplished. The Minister, then, and the youth need to be visible on a regular basis to the congregation, especially through worship services, fellowship events, and congregational meetings.. For example, the Youth and Family Minister must search for and take advantage of all possible opportunities to publicize the Youth and Family Ministry program through such things as news releases to local media, articles or letters to the editor in the local media, regular progress reports in Central’s e-news, bulletins and newsletter, announcements by the Minister or the youth or their parents at worship services, involvement of youth in the worship services. Also important is ensuring that other adult members of the congregation are actively involved on a regular basis in youth activities and classes, intergenerational mentorships with youth, and other intergenerational activities.
6. Work with the Worship Committee, the church’s musicians and music directors, and the parents to continue, as there is interest and support, an ongoing music and/or drama program for all ages of youth. This important program provides an appreciation for and an understanding of the importance of music and drama to the lives of God’s people, no matter how old they are.
7. Provide opportunities and experiences for young people that will help them develop their own leadership potential and ensure that each child is allowed to be open to God’s call to the ministry or other career opportunities where he or she can do God’s will.
8. Support parents and families in the nurture of a Christian home. This will include visits to the homes, and may include leadership in such things as the establishment of classes for expectant mothers; classes or fellowship opportunities for mothers (and/or fathers) of infants; family counseling or referrals; celebrations of special events in the home such as birthdays, baptisms and baptism anniversaries, and honors and awards received; and helping the Central family be aware of those awards and honors. The Youth and Family Minister is partially responsible for bringing the congregation to the home and letting the parents and the youth know that they have the support, help, encouragement and joy of the congregation when they need it.

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9. Establish a clear system for measuring progress toward agreed upon objectives as well as a regular assessment of the needs of the youth and family ministry (See “Evaluation” below.)
10. Submit to the Finance Committee, through the Youth and Family Ministry Committee, in the fall of each year the budget needs for the following year and work within the congregational budget guidelines once the budget is approved by the congregation.
11. Coordinate, as often as possible, events and ministry opportunities with Alaska Native Lutheran Church.
12. Support, when possible, the young adult ministry at Central Lutheran Church.
13. Perform other related duties when the needs arise.

**Skills and Talents Needed:**

1. Ability to skillfully and comfortably work with people, young and old.
2. Ability to dream, visualize possibilities, set short and long range goals for the program and for himself or herself, and to lead others to set and fulfill those possibilities and goals.
3. Ability to plan, organize and manage details on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.
4. Ability to recruit and nurture volunteers.
5. Ability to manage and resolve conflicts.
6. Patience with people.
7. Ability to listen and communicate.
8. Ability to work with the pastors and all staff members as part of a team at Central Lutheran Church.

**Evaluation:**

With pastors and the Personnel Committee, the Youth and Family Minister shall review this job description annually to make sure it accurately reflects the needs of the ministry. This review shall include an evaluation of working relationships and job performance.

**Needs and Preferences:**

The *Youth and Family Minister* should have a bachelor’s degree with a related major and/or equivalent background and experience in this field. He or she must keep himself or herself updated on developments in the field of Youth and Family Ministry through on-line or in person classes and reading and studying in the field. A background in music and/or drama background would also be helpful. He or she needs to be a practicing Christian and preferably a member of Central Lutheran Church.