



January, 2016

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"We are 'Central' to Winona, disciples of Jesus living a vibrant faith."

A note from Pastor Rem:

Life is filled with mixed emotions, isn't it? As joyous as the birth of a child is, there is also the challenge and frustration of trying to learn how to care for this tiny, helpless human. There is deep grief with the death of a loved one and yet deep thankfulness for the love you shared. Retirement is often exciting and anticipated and yet there is the adjustment to having the freedom to decide where to spend your time.

By now, most of you should have received my letter announcing my resignation. My last Sunday here will be January 17.

I am filled with joy as I think of our journey together. I remember incredible Christmas plays and Vacation Bible School events, developing the Wednesday Night Workshop program, dreaming of having a Child Care Center here and working with you to make that a reality, working with incredible leaders, having the opportunity to celebrate with you and grieve with you and walk with you through challenging times and so many more memories I share with you. But what I remember most, of course, is the privilege it has been to know those who walked these adventures with me. You are wonderful people. Thank you for sharing your laughter, joy and love of Jesus with me and my family.

But, of course, every ending has its own brand of sadness and I am filled with sadness also. God is calling us now to walk different paths and I will miss you, but I know I leave you in God's hands. God will lead you to the right leader for Central. God will open a new future for you and God will continue to do incredible work through you in the name of Jesus. I pray that you will stay focused on God's vision for Central Lutheran Church, and that you will continue to share the joy of loving Jesus with those who sit in the pew with you and with those halfway around the world.

You have been a blessing to me and my family and we wish all of God's blessings on you as you continue your journey of faith.

Please keep Erik Floan in your prayers. Erik fell while decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. He suffered 2 broken wrists and a fractured vertebrae. He had surgery on both wrists and is in a back brace. As of this printing he is recuperating at Gunderson Lutheran extended care facility. We will keep you posted on ways you can help when he gets home. A link to bring him meals is at: <https://mealtrain.com/39117y> There will be instructions there of what he can and cannot eat.

JANUARY BLOOD DRIVE

January 14, 2016 from 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM
If you can help in anyway by donating blood,
food or working please call me at 452-6411
or e-mail Beverly30@charter.net
Thank you, Bev Spande

God's People Connect

In January, join us for Exploring the Gospel.
Each Sunday starting January 10th, we will
explore the weekend's Gospel reading at
9:15 in Grace Hall.

Join us for conversation & fellowship.
All are welcome!

The Book Group will meet on **Monday, January 11th at 9:30 at CLC**. We will be reading "What's so Amazing about Grace" by Philip Yancey. If grace is God's love for the undeserving, then what does it look like in action? How can Christians contend graciously with moral issues that threaten all they hold dear? All are welcome to join us to share discussion, insights and support to help us live out our Christian faith in a broken world.

Luther College Symphony Orchestra Midwest Tour Winona Concert

Monday, February 1

7:00 p.m.

Winona Middle School
Auditorium,

Freewill donation.

Program includes:

Claude Debussy's "Petite Suite,"
Alexander Borodin's
"Polovtsian Dances" from
"Prince Igor," and Antonín
Dvořák's "Symphony No. 8 in G
major, Op. 88."



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Schedule for the remainder of the Sunday school year, 2015-16

Dec. 20th, Dec. 27th, January 3rd - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK

Jan. 10th, 2016 - Sunday school CLASSES RESUME

Feb. 7th - Transfiguration - SS children sing at 10:30 service

Feb. 14th - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

March 20 - Palm Sunday - SS children sing at 10:30 service

March 27 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - EASTER BREAK

April 17 - SS children sing at 10:30 service

May 15th - Last day of Sunday school TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY
SS children sing at 10:30 service

Christmas Program

A sincere "Thank you" to Samantha Wagner, Tammy Swenson-Lepper and Erik Floan for directing the Sunday school children's presentation of the Christmas story on December 13th.

The children did an excellent job singing, narrating the story, and portraying important roles.

A special "Thank you" to teachers and helpers as well for guiding and nurturing the children in their faith journey.

We wish to thank the volunteers who made treats, helped with set-up and cleanup for the Family Christmas Tea that followed. It was very well attended and enjoyed by all. We would like to wish all a Merry Christmas and God's blessings in the New Year.



Judy Davis &
Vickie Everson



"We are 'Central' to

Worship Matters: Epiphany Home Blessing

Erik Floan, director of worship music & arts



Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matt. 2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

Twelfth Night (January 5) or another day during the season of Epiphany offers an occasion for gathering with friends and family members for a blessing of the home, using the following as a model. Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 16. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedica*, which means, "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

Here's an example of a Home Blessing you can use with your family:

Greeting

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here.
By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established;

through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.

(See Proverbs 24:3-4.)

Reading

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

John 1:1-4, 14, 16

Inscription

Using chalk, make this inscription above your home's entrance: **20 + C M B + 16**, saying:

The magi of old, known as

C: Caspar,

M: Melchior, and

B: Balthasar

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

20: two thousand

16: and sixteen years ago.

+: Christ, bless this house,

+: and remain with us throughout the new year.

Prayer of Blessing

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star.

We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence.

May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

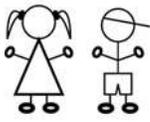
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Central Lutheran Church

Child Care Center

Mission: Provide the building blocks of child care by creating learning opportunities infused with faith while supporting the whole family.

January 2016

Wishing you....love, peace, happiness, joy, success, health, abundance, creativity, blessings and anything else that your heart desires for 2016!

With gratitude, joy and blessings...

Your Child Care Center Ministry Team



Parents...join us!!!! Parenting Education Class with Katy Smith:

Wed, Jan 20th from 6:00-7:15pm

Come for dinner at Central's own FEAST starting at 5:00pm with a class on engaging parenting from 6:00-7:15pm

ALL FREE: DINNER & CHILD CARE

Register TODAY with the Child Care Center Office at 452-5493!!!!

Making Memories with our youngest community members!

Here are pictures of your Child Care Center Ministry...



Together we make a difference in the life of a child!

Questions? Please contact us:

Phone: 452.5493 Email: childclc@hbcj.com

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The unsettled season of Advent

In incarnate Christ, God finds us and gives restless hearts rest



O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 257).

Advent. We were just here it seems. It's a season of preparation and anticipation. It can become exhausting and relentless. The commercial run-up to Christmas has certainly gotten longer. Sometime right after Labor Day the holiday displays appear in stores, ads pop up on our laptops and hand-held electronic devices, and carols creep into Muzak. And the annual holiday worship war between pastors and people will be waged over whether to sing Christmas carols in church during Advent. I will not weigh in on that epic debate in this column.

Instead, I want us to consider the deep and holy longing that is part of this season. It is significant that the words of the prophets and the yearning of Israel in exile are so prominent in the lessons appointed for Advent. The people longed for the Lord to come, to act, to redeem them, to take them home. Their exile in Babylon was no longer harsh. Many had made good lives, raised children and settled in. But it wasn't quite right. They were physically present in Babylon, but their hearts were not there.

I think Advent is that way for us. The earth is God's good creation. We find much joy in this life. As Lutherans we do not withdraw from the world but engage it, believing that it is a gift. But we also know that it is not quite right. That there is brokenness and pain — the pain we experience, the pain others cause, the pain we cause others. And, because of our brokenness, we turn in on ourselves trying, in futile self-sufficiency, to make ourselves whole.

In some ways Advent creates a certain restlessness. It may be one of the few seasons of the year when we

become more aware of our longing for wholeness and more alert to the signs that something is approaching. It's like hearing a sound in the distance that heralds something, but we just can't quite make it out. I believe Advent is a liminal time, a threshold. The Celts called this a "thin place," a place and time where heaven and earth seem to touch. It's just there, just out of sight, just out of reach. And we are filled with a holy longing. Isaiah said it: "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ..." ([Isaiah 64:1](#)).

What is it about us that makes us care, that makes us restless? Isaiah also wrote: "Yet, O Lord, you are our Father, we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand" ([Isaiah 64:8](#)). It seems that this Advent longing is an awareness that apart from God we are not whole. In Advent we find ourselves in the unsettled and restless time between the ending of the old year and the beginning of the new, a thin place where we draw near to God realizing, as Augustine wrote, "You have formed us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you" (Confessions).

But we can't get there by ourselves. This is not our work, but God's. Trustful waiting for the Lord is the purpose of Advent: waiting, yearning, expecting, believing.

And God is faithful. We hear from the prophet Zephaniah that God promises: "At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you ..." ([Zephaniah 3:20](#)).

But the One for whom we wait is not content merely to draw us in, but fulfills this promise by coming to us as Emmanuel, God with us. In the incarnate Christ, God comes to us, finds us and gives our restless hearts rest.

A friend of mine said, "The world is longing for a deeper sense of spiritual connection, but we haven't figured out how to meet the world in that conversation and longing. How can Advent be the start of that new conversation? How different would Advent look if we could start to think of that deep longing as part of our Advent journey?"

Being unsettled in this season might be good for us. God will not disappoint.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel (ELW, 257).

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Central Lutheran Church Council Minutes: 11/17/15

Present: Pr. Michelle Rem, Jack Richter, Carol Kramer, Sean Gotz, Julie Palubicki, Judy Davis, Ed Berkley, Samantha Wagner
Call to Order: Jack

Secretary's Report-Carol: 10/20/15 Council minutes.

Treasurer's Report-Ed: Monthly Review Revenue for the month of October was better than budget by \$1,949 and decreased the YTD deficit. The expenses were also less than we budgeted but we still remain in a negative position by \$51,256. We are moving in the right direction and with a little help from our friends... Year to Date Review Monthly income was below expectations by \$1,318 and expenses were better than budget. Current month shows the Childcare in a negative financial position of \$18,063.

Consent Agenda/Reports: Ed/Julie MSP to approve

Discussion items: **Call Committee Update**— A second interview was conducted on 11/16/15. Council provided input to Call Committee. **Nominations/Determine date for elections** — Currently seeking nominations for Council at Large. Will schedule date for election when a nominee has been identified. **Operations & Policy Manual** — Updating/revising is necessary. Suggested names for formation of task group to conduct the review for accuracy, eliminate duplication of those items already addressed in the bylaws, and add policy regarding gifts of value (property, stock, etc.) and a policy regarding wedding guidelines. **Server Upgrade** — Representative from N2V Solutions presented options to the Council explaining the details and cost of each. Ed/Julie MSP to approve dual core server with 32 GB. **Financial Status** — Discussion regarding how to better communicate the financial status, specifically the financial shortfall of the Church to the Congregation. Currently in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. Ed will meet with Jack to brainstorm asap. **Next Meeting Agenda Items:** Call Committee Update, Nominations & Date for Election of Officers, Stewardship/Fundraising Campaign.

Julie/Ed MSP to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted, *Carol Kramer*, Secretary

Council Reports-November, 2015 : **Director of Worship, Music & Arts-Erik Floan:** Washed & Welcome Baptismal Preparation Growing out of a summer study/task group formed to strengthen the Baptismal Preparation process at CLC, beginning February 2016 Washed & Welcome is the place and process where Central invites candidates and families for Baptism/ New Member to explore what it means to become part of this faith community. We anticipate celebrating Holy Baptism & Reception of New Members at the Easter Vigil on Saturday March 26. Julie Palubicki is the Leader for these sessions. *Summer task group: Vicki Everson, Judy Davis, Samantha Wagner, Jeff Boelter, Julie Palubicki, Kelly Dicke, Erik Floan, Pastor Rem.*

The organ was tuned December 2. A couple façade trumpet pipes which experienced metal deformation were removed and sent to the pipe maker in Germany for repair. NorthStar Boys' Choir Sang to a full house at Somsen Hall Saturday Dec. 5 and to a full Central Lutheran Sunday Dec. 6. Thank you to all who fed and hosted the choristers. A new "Welcome Suite" of pew cards is being introduced the weekend of December 13 by the Worship Board. Sanctuary Lighting & AV. Sims Sound has provided guidance on preliminary AV upgrades/repairs (in progress prior to "Spending Freeze"). Their proposal is available for your perusal. No further action is being taken at present. The AV issues stated last month remain, however. CHRISTMAS EVENTS: DEC 13: Sunday School "Simple Christmas" presentation is Sunday December 13, 10:30 am. DEC 16: Somewhat Annual Instant Christmas Pageant, Wednesday Dec. 16 – 6:30 pm. Come one, Come all and witness the magic of the SOMEWHAT ANNUAL INSTANT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, presented by Wednesday Night Workshop (Confirmation). DEC 19/20: Lessons & Carols service is planned for December 19/20. CLC Acoustic Ensemble will lead music at the 10:30 am service. DEC 20: Sanctuary "Greening" (including trimming the large Christmas Tree) is scheduled for Sunday December 20 at 3:00 pm. Christmas Eve/Day Services. Final schedule overleaf.

Small Group, Social & Service Ministries-Connie Larson:

The Christmas High Tea was a fun and enjoyable time. With plans to do it again next year! We had 43 people attend, with 8 people decorating tables and helping to hostess. Many thanks to the committee: Deb Berhow, Cindy Welke, Sue Cooper, Carolyn Larson and myself. We enjoyed doing it together. Conor Polodna, Anna and Steve Rem, Margaret Smart and Deb Berhow provided the program. The bonus was having women spending time together!

Social Concerns will be meeting this week. We will be making plans to disperse the "the Christmas Giving" gift cards from the congregation to members who can use some extra help.

The Feast will not be serving Dec. 23 & 30. We have been so blessed by the members of Winona State Circle K club who come every week and the Lutheran Campus Center once a month to help. Even with the clean up! We will soon be determining our donation to the Hunger Task Force. Without their help, we would not be able to afford to serve the meals we do. May you all experience all the newness and wonderment of life that our faith has to give us this Advent & Christmas season and always. Peace, Connie

Child Care Center-Kelly Dicke: Child Care Center supports "Compassionate Service" and "Welcoming All" Pillar in the following ways: Annual Staff Christmas Party

"We are 'Central' to Winona, disciples of Jesus living a vibrant faith."

Celebrated the Center's year and employee recognition with a Staff Christmas Party. We made many new memories and shared our accomplishments over the year...what an incredible team of talent and dedication. Thank you Central Lutheran Church Child Care Center team...for your generous spirit and love of children. Annual Christmas Program We hosted our Annual Christmas Program, "We Are Going to See the King," on Monday, Dec 7th. We presented the best 9 minutes of the year, show casing our preschoolers with special guest appearances by the Toddlers and Infants. Families had to park as far as 2 blocks away and the sanctuary was filled with excited parents and grandparents ready to film their little ones. The night was alive with joy and the celebrations of many accomplishments by our amazing children. Building trust, faith, and relationships with Winona's youngest

community members and their families are our top priorities. Enrollment: The Center's enrollment is steady. Throughout the year we have children transitioning to new classrooms. All transitions are scheduled and new enrollment is ready when we have vacancies. Our earliest availability (very limited availability) would be fall 2016. Staffing: We have 34 staff currently with 3 leaving as they graduate from college. We will replace a couple of positions. The financial reports show positively for the center bringing our deficit down quite dramatically. Budgeting deficit for the year is a direct reflection of extra expenses regarding the New Year's Flood, additional staff having medical/family emergencies causing extra staffing to be required, and the minimum wage increases.

Memorials & Gifts

UNDESIGNATED:

In honor of Richard and Peggy Twait's 50th wedding anniversary

Given by Diane Barge

n memory of Rosemary Buege

Given by Kathryn and Harry Buck,
Michael and Denise Bernatz

In honor of Joan and Don Klage's 50th wedding anniversary

Given by Mia Martin

In honor of Doloris Wedul's 100th birthday

Given by Mia Martin

QUILTERS:

In memory of Eileen Tremain

Given by Margaret B. Eckblad

FEAST:

In memory of Wesley W. Eckblad

Given by Margaret B. Eckblad

YOUTH FUND

In memory of Joyce M. Eckblad

Given by Margaret B. Eckblad

SECURITY SYSTEM:

In memory of Helen McGrath

Given by Margaret B. Eckblad

ALTAR GUILD:

In honor of Eloyce Schindler's birthday

Given by Alice and Arlene Neitzke

CLC FOUNDATION:

In memory of Gerald Groth

Given by Elton and Beth Conway

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND:

In memory of Don and Evelyn Reimer

Given by Diane Schulman

Washed & Welcome

Do you know someone who might be seeking baptism (their own or a child)? Or perhaps you or someone you know expressed interest in "officially" joining Central Lutheran Church.

Beginning February, 2016, Washed and Welcome is the place and process where Central invites candidates and families for Baptism/New Member to explore what it means to become part of this faith community. We anticipate celebrating Holy Baptism & Reception of New Members at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 26.

Contact Julie Palubicki: 507.458.2866 jules364@gmail.com

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:15 Worship	4 7:00 TV Broadcast Charter #986	5 9:00 Quilters 11:00 Staff 6:15 Hims Rehearsa;	6 7:00 Communion Noon personnel 1:30 St. Anne 2:15 Callista Ct 5:00 Feast/TV Broadcast HBCI #20/Feast 6:30 Wed. Nt. Workshop	7 6:45 Men's Ec Bible St 2:00 Luth Woman Today 3:00 LWT Circles 7:00 Patriotic Concert Choir Rehearsal	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 5:30 Worship
10 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School/ Adult Ed 10:30 Worship	11 9:30 Book Group 7:00 TV Broadcast Charter #986	12 9:00 Quilters 11:00 Staff 6:00 Crafts & Quilts 6:15 Hims Rehearsal	13 7:00 Communion 5:00 Feast/HBCI Broadcast 6:30 Wed. Nt. Workshop	14 6:45 Men's Ec Bible St 12:00 Blood Drive 2:00 Luth Woman Today 3:00 LWT Circles 5:00 Dance Class 7:00 Patriotic Concert Choir Rehearsal	15 10:00 Social Concerns	16 5:30 Worship
17 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School/ Adult Ed 10:30 Worship 11:30 Pr. Rem's Farewell	18 7:00 TV Broadcast Charter #986	19 9:00 Quilters 9:30 Staff 5:00 Council/Feast Leaders 6:15 Winona Hims	20 7:00 Communion 11:00 Watkins 1:00 Esther Circle 2:30 LWM Comm 5:00 Feast /TV Broadcast HBCI #20 6:30 Wed. Nt. Workshop	21 6:45 Men's Ec Bible St 5:00 Dance Class 7:00 Patriotic Concert Choir Rehearsal	22	23 3:00 Stevens/ Michalowski Wedding 5:30 Worship
24 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School/ Adult Ed 10:30 Worship	25 7:00 TV Broadcast Charter #986	26 9:00 Quilters 9:30 Staff 6:00 Crafts & Quilts 6:15 Hims Rehearsal 7:00 Sons of Norway	27 7:00 Communion 5:00 The Feast/HBCI TV 6:30 Wed. Nt. Workshop	28 6:45 Men's Ec Bible St 5:00 Dance 7:00 Patriotic Concert Choir Rehearsal	29	30 5:30 Worship
31 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School/ Adult Ed 10:30 Worship	January 2016					
			<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px;"> Weekly TV Broadcast Mon. 7:00 pm Charter Channel 986 Wed. 5:00 pm HBCI Channel 20 </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Central Lutheran Church 259 West Wabasha St. Winona, MN 55987 Phone: 452-5156 E-mail: centluth@hbc.com website: www.centrallutheranchurch.org </div>	

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www.CentralLutheranChurch.org
CentLuth@hbc.com

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Sign up: Host Homes for Luther College Symphony Orchestra

Central Lutheran is co-hosting the Luther College Symphony Orchestra who as part of their winter tour perform Monday, February 1 at the Winona Middle School. Host families get to know some talented students, share their corner of Winona, and extend Christ's hospitality to travelers.

What's needed? Simply provide a place for the students to sleep (they can sleep in beds, cots, couches, sleeping bags; they come in pairs, but you can take more than two), in the morning make them breakfast and bring them to the Middle School by 7:30 am Tuesday.

Can you help? Contact the church office

Farewell for Pastor Rem

Please join us for a potluck lunch followed by a program to thank Pastor Michelle Rem for her 22 years of service to Central Lutheran Church



Sunday, January 17th after the 10:30 service in Grace Hall.

Please bring a salad if your last name begins with the letters A-H, a hot dish if your name begins with the letters I-Q, or a dessert if your name begins with R-Z. Beverages will be provided. There will be a short program following the lunch.