

# CLC NEWSLETTER

March 2024



## Vision & Mission

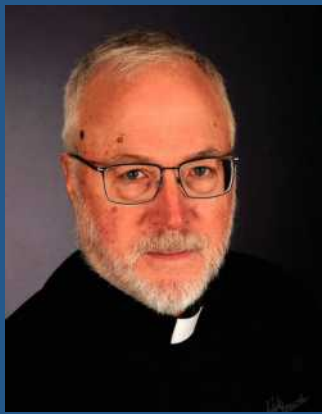
"Gathered in the love of God, we connect and serve."

Central Lutheran Church exists to make disciples: people who are passionate about following Jesus and living their faith each and every day.



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REV.  
MICHAEL  
SHORT

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTING PASTOR

Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Worshipping our Savior has been done in many different places and in many different ways over the centuries. Worshipping Jesus has been happening in Winona and Central for over 150 years. Now we are charged with ensuring there will be a place and a space to worship Jesus our Savior for the next 150 years and beyond.

So what will worship look like in the future? What sound or video or lighting will be needed in the years to come? What updates do we need to keep our gathering space viable for all that takes place in that space?

These are the questions I raised at the annual meeting as we set a vision for the future of Central. These questions were raised because of the work to be done in 2028 as we refurbish our pipe organ. During the time of restoration, we will need be outside the sanctuary for a few months. So I began to ask if that would be a good time to refurbish the sanctuary and update it for worship in the 21 st century.

First of all, I want to assure you worship will look and feel very similar to worship today. We will still be singing hymns and songs, we will still offer our praise and prayers to God. We will continue to gather around the Lord's Table and we will continue to be sent to proclaim the Good News of Jesus in word and deed.

Yet at the same time there will be changes in the way or manner in which we worship just as there has been since worshipping God began centuries ago. Consider the ways worship has changed in the past few years. When I arrived 5 years ago we were recording the service using old outdated equipment. It worked but did not produce the quality or project the image of a vibrant, forward thinking congregation. Since then we have upgraded the video and some sound equipment. Yet to produce the quality service we want to project, there are additional lighting and sound needs to make that happen.

In addition, there are a couple of things we could do to highlight the beautiful space we have, most importantly our beautiful stained glass windows. As best as anyone remembers it has been 30 years since the walls have been painted. The flooring is even older and contains asbestos. While the asbestos is contained and does not create a health concern, it is something we should take care of.

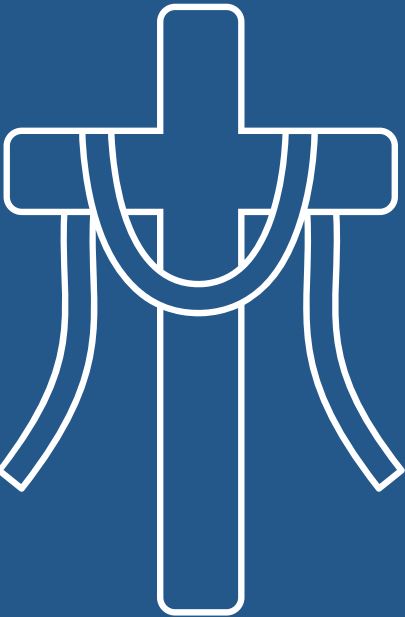
Not only is our sanctuary used for worship but has become a hub for community activities like organ concerts, Bach Society concerts, Beethoven Festival along with WSU, the Winona Symphony and Messiah sing-in. In updating the looks and environment Central can become a showcase for community gatherings. Each time those events happen, more people will be introduced to the beauty of our building and the welcoming place we call Central Lutheran.

This year there will be opportunities for you as members to offer your input and to give us your answers to the questions above. In hearing your voices and receiving your input we will be able to come up with the best plan as we move forward. When complete Central Lutheran will not only a central place within Winona for worship and community gatherings in the 21 st century but will be a space and a place to worship our Savior in the 22 nd century and beyond.

Pr. Michael



REV.  
KRISTEN  
MASSA



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters in Christ-

On an abnormally sunny, Tuesday morning in February, here in Winona, I was reminded of a word that some of us, including myself, often misplace- joy. Joy has been the topic of conversation many of times in our culture. From joy at Christmas to Marie Kondo's way of organizing ("Does that item bring you JOY?"), Joy is all around us. A simple book search of joy will bring books by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Brene Brown, and my favorite title that popped up- "Life is hard, God is good, Let's dance!".

Wouldn't it be great if it were so easy? Yet, I wonder if Joy could be easier to have in a world marked by things like war, cancer and death if we chose an attitude of Joy in our day to day lives. To choose joy daily is not an easy thing to do, and I think it may be why some of us, included myself, misplace it. Continually having joy be at the center of everything can be a daunting task in the midst of a post-pandemic world. Yet, I see it, and as the days and months since life got back to "new normal" I see it more and more.

I see more families getting re-involved with church. I see excitement from the kids in Sunday school and in confirmation. They are having fun; adults are filled with joy. People are stepping up to serve and finding ways to work together. The book of Nehemiah recounts some of the rebuilding of the walls and return to Jerusalem after Babylonian exile. During all of this, the Israelites came together to hear the law of Moses, in which they began to weep. But, Nehemiah told them in 8:10 "The Joy of the Lord is our strength". Much like the Israelites had to rebuild, we do too, but we can do it with joy with strength from God.

I would be amiss if I didn't mention the heartbreaks that we experience amidst the joys. They are there, they are real, and there's no amount of "attitudes of joy" that will fix them and make it better. But finding strength and comfort in God will give us power to rise. Simply knowing that God is there gives us joy, which can strengthen us in times of need.

Having an attitude of joy is not just about the mindset in which we bring to our lives, but it's also about finding where we can find our eternal, everlasting joy that can pick us up when we are at our lowest. That joy is in the Lord. I pray that this month, we can continue to seek out all the ways in which God, the Holy Spirit, works through us to bring an attitude of joy.

Blessings,  
Pastor Kristen

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS DIRECTOR

*All the earth is calm and at rest; people shout with a ringing cry.*

Isaiah 14:7

## Handbells Ring Anew

Last May, the Rochester Area Handbells gave an amazing performance in our sanctuary. At that event, an information session was held to gauge interest in bringing a handbell choir back to Central.

Subsequent surveys and many conversations proved to me that the beautiful sound of the bells would eventually return.

Fast-forward to February 1, 2024, when a group of 16 excited ringers met at 6 pm for their first rehearsal. As the people introduced themselves, we learned that some of the members had years of experience while others had never picked up a bell until that day. The group is also multi-generational – from high school students to members of AARP! And not all the ringers are members at Central.

The community handbell choir meets from 6 to 7 pm each Thursday in the sanctuary. Our hope is to share this beautiful music at worship and to assisted living communities in Winona. Watch for an announcement of the choir's first performance in April.

As I write this article in mid-February, the choir does not yet have an official name. Members of the group have ideas. If you would like to suggest a name, please email, or give me a call.

And more handbell good news – the Rochester Area Handbells are planning a return to Central in May 2024. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

Blessings, always.

A. Eric Heukeshoven



First Rehearsal video

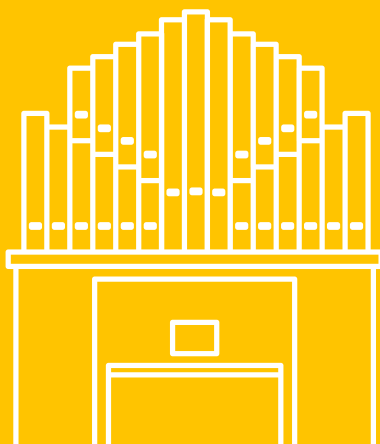
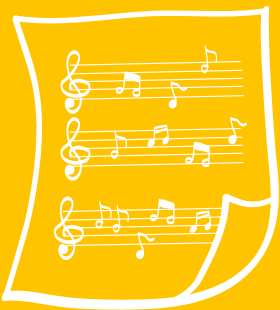
<http://tinyurl.com/5ftn98du>



**The bells are back!**



A. ERIC  
HEUKSHOVEN





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

## What's Happening at CLC CCC this month?

### Looking for Child Care?

We have great news to share! The Center is as full as we run it! We are busy creating experiences for the children and teaching new skills every single day. We are currently enrolling for summer of 2025. If you or you know of someone who needs child care please reach out sooner rather than later because there is little wiggle room for the next almost 2 years!

### Contribution to the Winona Community

We currently have 64 children enrolled in our program. We work closely with our families to provide both part time and full time care. We want our children to have the best experience possible at CLC CCC.

### Thank YOU Central!!!!

Sending a big THANK YOU to all those who ordered Butter Braids from the Center's Fundraiser! Your orders are helping us make a big difference in the lives of our children and their families!



### **We raised \$4000!**

All proceeds will go toward new experiences and equipment to enhance the child care programming split between the classrooms.

Thank you so much for your continued support of this ongoing mission for the Winona Community.

**Thank you for your support of this vital ministry!  
Together we are helping Winona families!**

## Special Thank Yous!



Thank you to **Bob Herman**, from the Kiwanis Group, for coordinating story time and a book to each preschooler/4K student and the Kiwanis Group



Thank you to **Central's Quilters** for helping solve bibs that really work for our infants and toddlers!

**Questions, please contact us...**  
[childcarecenter@centrallutheranchurch.org](mailto:childcarecenter@centrallutheranchurch.org)



Recently one of our students preached at the LCC. He didn't grow up going to church and, in fact, shared with us that night in worship that he was raised as "a little agnostic." He always felt like there was something, though, something bigger. Something like God. Divine Presence. When he came to college, he decided he was going to try new things. One day, while getting coffee with friends, he noticed that the large shared space we have with the coffee shop held bookmarks and signs about the LCC. The bookmark he picked up said there was a free dinner and worship in this very space on Sundays, so he decided to come the following weekend.

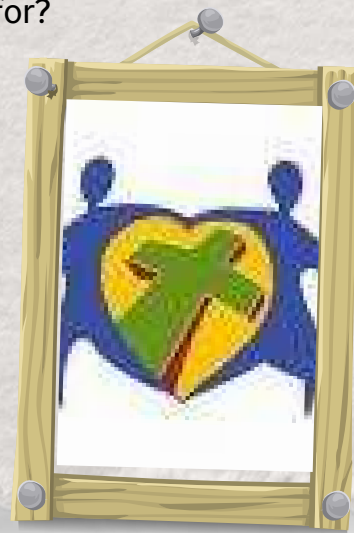
That Sunday was a rare occasion in which I was not able to be at the LCC; I was in California for my mother-in-law's memorial. When someone asked if he'd be willing to share contact info so that "Pastor Corrine" could get in touch with him- "She'd really want to meet you!"-he felt a bit nervous. All he knew of pastors was that they were usually older men who hated gay people, but sometimes said they didn't to trick them.

Thankfully, this student risked showing up again and did share his info. After that, he kept coming back, every week. He was looking for a job, and when he noticed we were looking for a student office assistant, he jumped at the opportunity. We met weekly with another student for "confirmation," reading stories from Genesis together. He always had the best questions and insights. After Palm Sunday, he came to my office to ask about the Easter story. He'd never experienced a Palm Sunday before, nor a holy week. It was such a gift for me, too, to be able to walk through the stories anew, with fresh eyes and questions. At the end of last school year, he was ready to apply for the student minister position, too.

Which brings us to him preaching a couple weeks ago... in the sermon, he shared that he doesn't necessarily use the label Christian for himself, and most of his friends aren't Christian. But— the feeling he'd always wondered about— that sense of something bigger— he finally felt the trueness of it. "I felt the unconditional love of God here, and I keep feeling it every time I come. All the time now."

This generation may not be big into labels and adhering to a certain doctrine, or creed, but they are incredibly intentional with how they spend their time and with whom they spend their time. Though the student may not self-describe as Christian, he does live it out. And he felt safe and comfortable enough at the LCC to say that aloud. He knew he could be authentic and honest and not lose his community. He knows- and feels- that he is loved by God, unconditionally. What more could we ask for?

Peace,  
Pastor Corrine Haulotte



# COMMITTEE EVENTS

## Social at Sugar Loaf Senior Living

On Monday, February 12, fellowship, conversation, coffee and cookies were shared with Central Lutheran members living at Sugar Loaf Senior Living. A goal of the Social Concerns Committee in 2024 is planning outreach events at senior housing facilities where Central members reside.

The morning was filled with sharing memories, laughter and prayer. It was a delight to have Pastor Kristen join the social. Those who had not met her before were especially pleased.



## Thank you!

The Social Concerns Committee is grateful for the support of the Congregation on Valentine Sunday, February 11th. Your generous donations for frosted cookies have been directed to the 2024 Youth Mission Trip Fund.



## Sewing Volunteers

The Child Care Center at Central is in need of a special style of bib for their toddlers and have asked the Central Quilters for help. There is a specific pattern that works well for protecting the toddlers' clothing. They need 200 bibs! We are still looking for volunteers to sew some bibs at home. Quilters will supply the pattern, material, and instructions. If you have any fun kid material and would like to donate the material to this project or participate in this project please contact Gloria Freiheit at (507) 450-5132.

\*see childcare article for photo of kids wearing our bibs!\*



## Let's Get Crafting!

The Central Quilters craft sale was so popular that they've decided on a new schedule for 2024. If you've been looking for something to do while you're cooped up inside, you could get those creative juices flowing and start making some crafts to donate. Before you know it Spring will be here and you'll want to be doing things outside, so start now and beat the Fall rush!

### 2024 Quilter Craft Sale Schedule

Sunday, October 6th- Halloween/Fall craft sale

Sunday November 3rd- Thanksgiving/Holiday craft sale

Sunday December 1st- Holiday craft sale

Sunday December 14th- Holiday craft sale and the WELCA Bake Sale and Lunch



# WIN

## UPDATE

The WIN committee has been very busy preparing and welcoming our newest couple from Nicaragua. We welcomed Edelber in 201, and Veronica, Alec, and Jeronimo in 2023, all from Colombia. On Thursday, February 22, 2024, we welcomed Jazmina and Julio from Nicaragua. We appreciate the partnership we've established with other congregations and community groups and are especially grateful for the support and involvement from members of Central Lutheran. With each sponsorship we learn something new about how the immigration process works as we assist our new friends with applying for asylum, applying for jobs, and becoming assimilated into our community. Pastor Short has designed a helpful brochure that will help build interest in this ministry. We are always hoping to involve more members in welcoming individuals. We've been fortunate to find others within all partner congregations who may not be on the committee, but who have helped in so many ways. Some have helped with fundraisers. Some have donated and purchased clothing, furnishings and housewares. Volunteers have provided meals, introduced our new friends to community opportunities, and provided rides to appointments, the Feast and English classes. We find hidden talents everyday within our congregations and community that we can turn to in a time of need. We encourage you to let us know if you like to be included on our mailing list to stay aware of our needs and volunteer opportunities. You might suggest a way you could help that we have not yet considered. With your help we can expand our efforts. As you get to know each of these individuals, you will be touched by their gratitude and inspired by the faith, and courage required to leave family, a familiar culture, and employment, to undertake this journey into new culture with a new language. Our new friends have shared so much with us, and have expanded our understanding of their journey as well as their individual talents and interests.



## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who donated items to set up an apartment for Jazmina and Julio. It all came together in two weeks! It's inspiring to experience what a generous community we live in! Here are some pictures of the cozy apartment WIN was able to put together with your help.

## MEET JAZMINA AND JULIO

Here is a picture of our new friends from Nicaragua! Their names are Jazmina Yamileth Penado and Julio Enrique Miranda. Jazmina and Julio both taught high school at Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe. Sometime in the next month we will have a reception between services for Jazmina, Julio, Alex, Veronica, Jeronimo, and Edelber. Please come, introduce yourself and visit over a cup of coffee.





# EVENTS



## FEAST

The FEAST is in need of people to bake desserts for Wednesday night meals. Please contact Pam Davick (507) 459-2806 if you are interested in sharing your delicious treats.

### March Menu:

**March 6:** cook- Cindy Welke- Italian hotdish, green salad, veggie, dessert

**March 13:** cook- Jay Dureske

**March 20-** cooks- Grace Schueler & Peggy Twait- tuna hotdish, peas, salad, bread, dessert

**March 27-** No FEAST meal

Menus and cooks subject to change, please check Sunday slideshows and Central Currents for most recent information.

## CLC Book Group- Thursday March 7, 10 AM

Join us in Grace Hall on the 7th to discuss "Pontius Pilate" by Paul L. Maier. What really happened at the most famous of all trials? But for the judgement of one man, a faith shared by nearly a billion people today might not have been born. All are welcome. Shayna can direct you to someone to answer any questions you may have.



## SPRING BREAK FAMILY MOVIE

March 9 | 03:00 PM



JOIN US AS WE WATCH "ELEMENTAL".  
BRING BLANKETS AND PILLOWS, POPCORN PROVIDED.

PJ's and stuffies not required, but encouraged!  
ALL ARE INVITED!

# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30 am- Traditional Worship 10:30 am- Modern Worship		9:00 am- Quilters	4:45 pm- FEAST Meal 5:30 pm- Lenten Discussion	10:00 am- CLC Book Group	1 to 3:00 pm - Carne Day	3:00 pm- Family Movie- Elemental
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30 am- Traditional Worship 9:30 am- Sunday School 9:30 am- Cinnamon Roll Sale 10:30 am- Modern Worship 3 PM- Luren Singers in Sanctuary	9:00 am- WELCA 6:30 pm- WIN	9:00 am- Quilters 5:00 pm- Property Committee 6:30 pm- Council Meeting	12:00 PM- Safety & Security 4:45 pm- FEAST Meal 5:30 PM- Lenten Discussion 6:30 PM- Confirmation	10:00 AM- Welcome & Worship 6:-00 pm- Handbell Choir 7:00 pm- Adult Choir Rehearsal		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30 am- Traditional Worship 9:30 am- Sunday School 10:30 am- Modern Worship	9:00 am- Social Concerns 5:30pm - Youth Committee	Newsletter Articles Due 9:00 am- Quilters	1:30 pm- Esther Circle 4:45 pm- FEAST Meal 5:30pm Lenten discussion 6:30 pm- Confirmation	1:30 pm- Hannah Circle 6:00 pm- Handbell Choir 7:00 pm- Adult Choir Rehearsal		9:00 am- 5th Grade Confirmation Class
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30 am- Traditional Worship 9:30 am- Sunday School 10:30 am- Modern Worship- Sunday School Children Sing	Easter Flower Slip DUE	9:00 am- Quilters 7:00 pm- Sons of Norway	5:30pm - Lenten Discussion	6:00 pm- Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30 pm- 5th Cd communion 7:00 pm- Adult Choir Rehearsal	Office Closed 6:00 pm- Good Friday Worship	6:00 pm- Easter Vigil
31- Easter Sunday 8:30 am- Traditional Worship 10:30 am- Modern Worship						



# CHURCH COUNCIL

## PAST PRESIDENT

Steve Ringlien

## PRESIDENT

Kati Stoltman

## PRESIDENT ELECT

Scott Mlynczak

## TREASURER

Mark Boysen

## SECRETARY

Myrna Olson

## AT LARGE

Tammy

Swenson-Lepper

## AT LARGE

Tim Laib



# COUNCIL REPORT: JANUARY 9, 2024

**PRESENT:**Pastor Short, Pastor Massa, Steve Ringlien, Tim Laib, Jeremy Johnson, Scott Mlynczak, Mark Boysen, Kati Stoltman, Myrna Olson

**ABSENT:** None

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Steve opened with devotions. Scott will have devotions in February.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kati moved, Tim seconded, carried to approve the agenda.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tim moved, Mark seconded, carried to approve the December 12, 2023, minutes.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark provided the following December financial report:

### December 2023 Central Lutheran Church Financial Report Operating Fund

As expected, December was very good for offerings. Total income was \$94,549 and that was \$59,367 over the expenses of \$35,182.

	Monthly	Budget	Diff vs Budget
Income	\$94,549	\$93,233	\$1,316
Expenses	\$35,182	\$56,804	-\$21,622
Gain/Loss	\$59,367	\$36,429	\$22,938

Variations in expenses were:

Transferred money from the building maintenance fund to snow plowing and parking lot repair.

Snow plowing \$3,013.75

Parking lot seal coating \$7,225.00

\$10,238.75

For all of 2023 we did end up at -\$22,524.48. Income was 7.5% under budget and expenses were 10.2% below budget.

	YTD	YTD Budget	YTD Diff vs Budget	
Income	\$544,591.72	\$589,051	-\$44,459	-7.5%
Expenses	\$567,116.20	\$631,710	-\$64,594	-10.2%
Gain/Loss	-\$22,524.48	-\$42,659	\$20,134.52	

### Child Care

YTD gain of \$34,742 and fund balance of \$114,214.

	Dec '23	Child Care	YTD
Income	\$62,548.38	Income	\$792,822.83
Expenses	\$72,855.74	Expenses	\$758,290.31
Gain/Loss	-\$10,3307.36	Gain/Loss	\$34,532.52

# CHURCH COUNCIL

## PAST PRESIDENT

Steve Ringlien

## PRESIDENT

Kati Stoltman

## PRESIDENT ELECT

Scott Mlynczak

## TREASURER

Mark Boysen

## SECRETARY

Myrna Olson

## AT LARGE

Tammy

Swenson- Lepper

## AT LARGE

Tim Laib



# COUNCIL REPORT CONTINUED

Following discussion, Scott moved, Jeremy seconded, carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.

## OLD BUSINESS

Committee for Organ Refurbishment

Pastor Short reported a committee for fundraising for the repairs of the organ is being formed and a date and time will be set for the first meeting.

## Nominating Committee

Pastor Short informed the Council that the Nominating Committee continues to meet to provide candidates for the positions of President Elect, At-Large, Foundation, and Nominating Committee. These positions will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

## Feast

The Council will be making chili, cornbread and salad for the Feast on January 31.

## LCC Meal

The Council will be providing food for the Lutheran Campus Center on Sunday, February 18. The menu will be decided at the February meeting.

## STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were reviewed.

- Pastors continue with Confirmation classes for the youth
- Fundraising with the youth groups
- WIN will be welcoming a third family in February
- NYG fundraising continues with cinnamon rolls on the second week of each month, fish fry on February 23, Chicken Q on January 16.
- Confirmation students went caroling on December 13
- Made over 75 kid bags for Christmas services
- There are 65 children enrolled at the Child Care Center serving 51 families.
- The 30th anniversary of the Hendrickson Pipe Organ is in 2024. Plans are being made to recognize this anniversary,
- Handbells will be played on Christmas Eve.

Mark moved, Jeremy seconded, carried to approve the staff reports.

Jeremy Johnson was thanked for his years of service and dedication on the Council as President-Elect, President, and Past President.

The next meeting will be February 13, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Myrna Olson  
Secretary



# FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2024

Total Income: \$28,993.37

Total Expenses: \$60,345.94

Offering Goal: February \$32,009.49

*Thank you for your support of Central's Ministry*

Gifts in memory or honor of someone **Memorials January 16, 2024 through February 19, 2024**

## UDESIGNATED

**Memory of Judde Foster**

**Given by** Paul & Lori Ness

**Memory of David Green**

**Given by** Jim & Betty Pries, Peggy Twait

**Memory of Ida Olson**

**Given by** George & Mary Lou Johnson

## AUDIO VIDEO

**Memory of David Green**

**Given by** Judy Benson,  
Dorothy Sorum, Myrna  
Olson, Judy Inman, Phyllis  
Fick, Tim & Laurie Laib

## FEAST

**Memory of David Green**

**Given by** Judy Davis,  
Hannah Circle

## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Lavern Hauschildt, Marilyn  
Marquardt, Charlene Staff, Keith  
Staff, Louise Stromberg

## Designated Gifts in January



Building Maintenance Fund	\$963.00
Quilters	\$70.00
Funeral Fund	\$128.59
WIN	\$1,185.00
WVS Food Shelf	\$ 10.00
Music & Arts	\$100.00
Youth Fund	\$420.00
Youth Mission Trip	\$132.94
Sunday School	\$21.00
FEAST	\$929.40

## Easter Flowers

If you are interested in donating towards Easter flowers, simply fill out this form and place it in the collection basket along with your check, or mail it to the church office. Thank you!

Checks payable to *Central Lutheran Church (CLC)* with *Easter Flowers* in the memo line.

Donors & dedications received by Sunday, March 24th, will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount

PRINT YOUR NAME

Print Dedication (IN HONOR OF/ IN MEMORY OF...)



259 W. Wabasha St. Winona, MN  
55987

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit #145  
Winona, MN 55987



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## What's Coming Up

**March 8th-** 1pm, Game Day

**March 9th-** 3pm, Spring Break Family Movie, Elemental

**March 10th-** 3pm, Luren Singers

**March 23rd-** 9 am, 5th Grade Communion Class

**March 25th-** Easter Flowers slip due

**March 28th-** 6pm, Maundy Thursday Worship  
5th Grade First Communion

**March 29th-** Office Closed  
6pm, Good Friday Worship

**March 30th-** 6pm, Easter Vigil

**March 31st-** 8:30 & 10:30 am, Easter Sunday Worship

**Worship volunteers needed for service during Holy Week- contact  
the church office**



507.452.5156

Contact Us

[centrallutheranchurch.org](http://centrallutheranchurch.org)



[office@centrallutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@centrallutheranchurch.org)

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