



May, 2020

Inside...

Page 2	Notices
Page 3	Notices
Page 4	Notices
Page 5	Notices
Page 6	Youth News
Page 7	Arts & Music News
Page 8	Childcare News
Page 9	Lutheran Campus Center
Page 10	Council Report
Page 11	Council Report
Page 12	Financial Report

"We are disciples of Jesus, living faithfully, welcoming all, worshipping in community, growing faith and serving compassionately.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Alleluia, Christ is risen. These are the words spoken to open our Easter Sunday service just as they are every year. This year these words spoke even more deeply to me. Jesus Christ, our Savior has overcome the power of death, not just for himself, but for all of us. This saving act gives me hope that our future will be more than the fear and isolation so many are experiencing.

Here a few weeks into this new reality, it seems as if it has been months or years since we were able to do the 'normal' things in life. We, the staff at Central and the Childcare Center have worked hard to adapt and change our work lives so we can continue to serve you our members and the children in our care. I am sure we still have weeks to go before we are able to start resuming our normal routines again. But they may never be normal or routine again. This pandemic has changed us both in the short term and in the months to follow.

I am ever grateful for the many words and calls of support for my work among you. Many have asked what they can do to support me. Here is my response: First of all, I ask for your prayers, for myself, for the staff, for the childcare center and for each other. Secondly, that you not forget the staff with your cards and offers of support. They have continued to come to work, helping to keep things sanitized in addition to their daily tasks. The most affected members of our staff are the many Childcare Center workers. While the church staff occasionally work from home to keep distance and others healthy, the Childcare center staff do not have that option. Many are frightened just as you are of contracting the virus. Yet they show up and care for the children entrusted to us., especially the children of the first responders in our community.

So I ask this of you. If you know some of the staff or their families, thank them and reach out offering words of support to them as well. If you are so inclined, please send a card or note to them at the church. These are the front line (heroes) working for you serving the community in this time of need.

As we continue living and working in this new reality, know we are already planning and working so we are ready when we are able to get back together in person. This less busy time in some ways has allowed Dennis to clean carpets and accomplish other low priority tasks. Rich Moe is refinishing the pews in the sanctuary and they look like new. The staff is reorganizing their hours, working to find new ways to accomplish tasks, and making sure our membership list is up to date so we can keep connected to all of you. John is continuing to plan youth events for the summer including the mission trip and VBS. Aleah and I continue to plan worship experiences that will both be meaningful online as well as in person for when you return. So pay attention to the many announcements in the

Continued on next page

newsletter and in our weekly emails. If you do not get emails or do not use a computer, please call the office and let us know how to keep you informed.

My prayer for you this day is that you will all stay home, stay healthy and stay safe until we are able to meet in person once again. Until then may you have a Blessed Easter season. For Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pr. Michael

Notices

Worship Services

However we will gather as a community for worship in these weeks ahead, even being separated by distance, we are still the body of Christ. For many of you not being able to partake in Holy Communion, even for a couple of weeks is disappointing. Gathering around the Lord's Table is part of who we are as the body of Christ. So whenever we are gathered, in person or virtually, we will continue to share in the Lord's Supper together. I invite you to do two things as you prepare for worship in your homes. First is to light a candle, a reminder of Christ's presence with and among us. Second, is to lay out a piece of bread or a cracker and a small glass of wine or grape juice, according to your diet and taste. Then when we get to the point of the meal in the service, as those gathered to lead worship share in the meal, you in your homes can share the meal with us as well. Keep watching email notifications and our webpage about worship opportunities as we move forward.

Special Congregational Meeting

A special congregational meeting was held on line using Zoom on Monday, April 13th. The purpose of the meeting was to ratify actions the council took to apply for a forgivable SBA loan through the CARES Act. The CARES Act was legislation Congress passed in response to the COVID pandemic. Specifically, this act allows small businesses to request a Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan through the SBA. The amount of the loan is capped at 2 ½ times your average monthly payroll. For us that average is about \$ 60,000 so our loan would be about \$ 150,000. This would allow us to keep our staff, (church and Childcare) on the payroll through this time of uncertainty. If over the next two months, May and June, we keep our payroll at the same level of employment, the loan would be forgiven. Those in attendance were in agreement.

WELCA Bible Drive

WELCA is collecting new and used Bibles and Christian literature (*no hymnals or Lenten lit please*) for distribution overseas by International Christian Literature Distributors of Minneapolis. The collection box is located through the double doors in the main church entrance, please ring the doorbell.



Notices

Supporting Central in a Time of Distancing

Following is an excerpt from a stewardship letter sent out in April.

While proclaiming the Gospel is central to who we are as the church, we also need financial support to make all this happen. As you might be aware, most of our contributions and support come from members when they attend services on Sunday mornings. Since in person worship was suspended our level of contributions has dropped as you might expect. As the Directing Pastor, I am writing to ask you to consider how you might continue your support of Central Lutheran Church until we are able to once again gather in person.

Here are three options for you to consider:

1. Put your weekly or monthly contribution in an envelope and mail it to the church.
2. Consider signing up for direct deposit of your contribution by either:
 - a. Using the electronic payment set up through the church and WSB
 - b. Using the bill-pay option offered by your own bank.
3. Going to www.CentralLutheanChurch.org website and click on the giving tab. There you will be given a couple of options to electronically support Central using a credit card or your bank account through a company called, Vanco and soon to be added Tithe.ly.

If you need assistance in setting up the automatic giving or using any of the online processes, please call the office and someone will be able to guide you. Thank You for your support of the ministries of Central Lutheran Church.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Winona State University was forced to close its doors because of the COVID-19 pandemic. They were scheduled to host a Red Cross Blood Drive on March 31. A request was made to Central Lutheran Church to fill the void and host the drive. The church was happy to do so.



This note was left by the Red Cross at the end of the drive. "Thank you so much for hosting today's blood drive. We greatly appreciate your generosity and hospitality, especially during this time of uncertainty. We would not have been able to collect these life-saving donations without you." The community stepped up to the plate with 41 units collected.

Sunday School - Faith Resources

The Sunday School has been emailing and creating Facebook posts with faith resources for children. Email Sunday School at sundayschool@centrallutheranchurch.org if you would like to be added to the list. Children's bulletins are also available on our website.



Notices

A Special Thank You

to all who made our Holy Week services great and meaningful this year.

Thank you for Steve Ringlein, Keith Holmquist, Debbie Berhow, John Paulson, for their musical talents at one of the services. To Sylvia Pecsénye, Nora and Jackson Leger, Pr. Louise and Jim Stromberg for sharing their gifts of reading and storytelling videos for our Easter vigil service. Also to Julie Palubicki for assisting in worship and Linda Bouck for recording and live streaming the services. Lastly to our staff, John Barthalow for hosting and monitoring our online services and to Aleah Harvey for the video editing of our Holy Saturday service and for her fantastic playing.

Bringing the Good News to you and to the world in this new way takes many people. I am grateful for all their work and for the support of you, the members of Central and what you offer us in these days.

March Food Basket

During March you have donated 625 pounds of food and \$404 in cash which converts to a total of 1,433 pounds of food. This brings our grand total to 3,213 pounds of food this year.

Thank you to everyone who participates in this very important mission, especially during this time of the coronavirus and the huge need for food by the homeless and unemployed! Once again we at Central Lutheran have come shining through...YES!!!



Church Directories For Sale!

Church Directories are done and ready for purchase. They are available in the church office and are \$10 each.

Building Access

With the pandemic moving closer, with tighter controls being put in place and wanting to keep exposure to the staff and Childcare Center at a minimum we have made the follow adjustment. The building is now locked at all times. If you need to enter the building and do not have a key fob which allows entry, you will need to ring the doorbell and someone will come and open the door. If you need something from the church, like a copy of a devotional, you can call and let us know and we will be happy to bring it out to your car for you. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work to serve you, our members and the community during this time of isolation.



Notices

Special Thank You

We say a special thank you to those who helped make our new camera system possible. With our need to move our worship services online, to both live stream and upload our service to YouTube, the old system was marginal at best. A new camera system was part of Phase 3 of our House that God Built campaign. Some of our members, understanding the challenge we were facing, stepped up and made special contributions toward this project.



We hope you are enjoying a clearer picture and better sound.

We continue to work to use the new features it offers to offer you a better online worship experience. Offering an online worship is something we will continue to do in the future for those unable to join us at Central. The new system will work side by side with our projectors in the sanctuary offering you a similar enhanced worship experience when we are able to meet in person again. Our projectors will also need to be upgraded, that will be part 2 of Phase 3. But until we meet again we hope you will continue to join us online as we share the Good News in a whole new way.

CLC Book Group

On hiatus until church resumes activities

The book group will resume meeting when the church is able to resume a regular activity schedule. There will be a notice in the weekly e-news. We are currently reading “Dear Church” by Lenny Duncan. Members of our group who have read the book have been deeply challenged by the message given by Pastor Duncan regarding the whitest denomination in the U.S. He suggests a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus. You have time to read the book now and join us when we resume meeting. The church library has many wonderful books and a section for books read by the book group, check it out. If you have questions, call Gayle Garrity at 961-0465.

Social Concerns & Missions

September 13, 2020

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an ELCA ministry of community and world service. Central Lutheran has joined with other churches across the country in celebrating this day since 2014. In 2020, GWOH’s will join with the board of Social Concerns and Missions to promote congregational involvement and awareness throughout the year. The combined groups will choose a new committee name in the near future. Our goal will be to increase the involvement and presence of Central Lutheran Church in the Winona community, at the Lutheran Campus Center and maintain our connection to local and world mission partners.



Youth News



God's blessings to you during this unusual spring of 2020. This has been a challenging time for our middle and high school students, separated from their friends and teachers, trying to learn from home while many parents juggle working, child care, and homeschooling. Your Central Lutheran church family is keeping all of our congregation and community members in our prayers as we continue to stay home, and for those sick during this pandemic.

Confirmation/WNW has been going strong on Zoom during Wednesday nights. A special thanks goes out to Marcus Bunkowski, Judy Davis, and Kendra Swenson for their continued volunteering in this vital ministry, and to visitation pastor Rev. Linda Helberg for jumping in at the last minute as a substitute guide/pastoral leader during a recent class. Reminder to students to be mindful of the amount of sermon notes that you have yet to do; every week, you have the opportunity to complete two on Google Docs and share them with me.

The mission trip is ON; Youthworks reworked its summer schedule, and so our trip to Rapid City will take place from July 26-31. Our annual plant sale fundraiser did better than last year's sale, bringing in nearly \$800 in profit. We still have a ways to go towards paying for the mission trip, though; if you'd like to contribute, please go to <https://www.centrallutheranchurch.org/donate/>, click on Vanco, and select the mission trip box.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 12-19. Registration information will be coming out shortly, please contact me with questions or information. Our theme is "On Earth as in Heaven" and will be run by staff from the Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Volunteers will still be needed, let me know if you are available.

In May, we will have a virtual mystery game on May 7th; a drawing contest from May 4th through the 15th; a middle school Zoom movie night (*Zootopia*) on May 11th at 7 PM; a high school Zoom movie night (*Luther with Joseph Fiennes*) on May 18th at 7 PM; and a Confirmation picnic at Lake Winona and hike on May 27th from 6:30-8:00 PM. We will have a tribute to our high school seniors that is tentatively scheduled for May 31st; seniors and their families are invited to a catered brunch at 9:15 AM (RSVP to me ASAP), and a special in-person church service at 10:30 AM. Seniors are reminded to complete the survey sent to them, and to submit a senior picture to me.

Finally, Pastor Short and I have been trying to reach out to our high schoolers on Thursdays using social media messaging apps (we try to do the same for the middle schoolers during our Zoom Confirmation classes). If you or someone you know needs someone to talk to, help with homework, or to fight off boredom, please e-mail us at jbartholow@centrallutheranchurch.org or prshort@centrallutheranchurch.org, or by calling us at church at (507) 452-5156. Thank you and enjoy this upcoming spring weather; we have deserved it!

Peace,

John Bartholow

Director of Youth Ministries

Music & Arts News

We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song.

These words have been resonating with me ever since I first read them. As I prepared for worship services each week, the Lenten music felt fitting and comforting. *I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest"...I want Jesus to walk with me...Jesus, source of living water, may we drink of you and live...Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm...Bless now O God, the journey, the trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round, then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.*

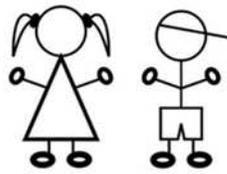
Easter was met with expectation and joy. There was a relief that we had something to celebrate and lift our spirits. Although we were physically separate, I could feel the greater unity and connectedness our celebrating.

I have to admit, I struggled the week following Easter. I was discouraged that we are still unable to gather together. I miss hearing your voices singing the familiar Easter anthems. The music itself felt hollow and forced. I'm sure that many of you are feeling similar emotions.

Today, I printed the phrase above and posted it to be a frequent reminder. *We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song.* This is so much more than a word we sing, than a spoken response. This is our identity. Although the world around us is uncertain, we can rest in the good news that Christ is risen and has set us free forever.

We will continue finding ways to worship together. Thank you for your patience as we make new attempts and sometimes falter. Thank you for being open to trying new things. We truly are all in this together. Keep watching for updates!





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

What's Happening at our Child Care Center?

The Peacetime Emergency has been established on March 13, the Stay At Home Executive Order was made March 25. During this time, the Governor of MN has asked child care to be open and available to Emergency and Essential Tier 1 & Tier 2 employees on the front line. Without child care available, essential jobs would not be done. I applaud the Child Care Center team, scared but bravely helping the community's children...these people are HEROES. Please keep the Center's team in your prayers.

Contribution to the Winona Community

With the Stay At Home order, enrollment has changed. On a daily basis we have 16-29 attendance in total from all classrooms. Families are keeping children home and as a result 5 children withdrew from care. The Center has been added to the State's Emergency Child Care list and we have contacted Winona Health and Gundersen to share with staff if they need help with care. One new child is enrolled due to the care of emergency and essential employees. Running at less than half of the children than a typical day, thus keeping the Center doors open has not been easy. The work load to the Center team has doubled trying to connect with those that aren't here and continuing to provide care to those that are and stay on top of all of the additional cleaning requirements.

The Center's Team

The center staff are working tirelessly during this COVID-19 pandemic. There are changes to protocols changing daily and sometimes hourly. To keep staff and children safe, we are working with the CDC, MDH and DHS. Some of the additional compliance changes include:

1. Church and Child Care Staff are only allowed on site. During drop off and pick up time, the Center staff meet the families outside and conduct a Health Screening prior to accepting the child into care.
2. Temperature checks are conducted a minimum of 2 times a day for all staff and children.
3. Additional disinfecting has been added to our original disinfecting regime to all touched surfaces including door knobs, railings, light switches, lockers, and more.
4. Group sizes are kept below 10 to allow for as much social distancing as possible with children.
5. The locked, private playground gets disinfected after each group plays.
6. Facemasks are now a part of everyone's daily life and are required by the State of MN mandate.

Our New Normal



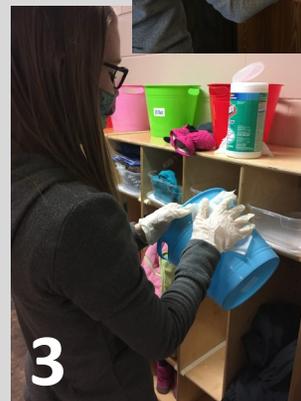
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Questions, please contact us... Phone 507.452.5493

Email: childcarecenter@centrallutheranchurch.org

It has been so long since our community gathered on the corner of Huff and King/9th Street in Winona. And, yet, our community is gathering for worship, widening the circle to include beloved alum, family members of students past and present, and our dear friends of the ministry, online via zoom and Facebook Live.

This year we also gathered for Holy Week, something we normally don't get to do. On Palm Sunday we invited people to create simple wreaths, or dig out their Advent wreaths, complete with the four candles circling the outside and a fifth in the center. We lit the candles that Sunday, then extinguished a couple on Maundy Thursday and the rest on Good Friday.

On Maundy Thursday, I mourned the absence of our in-person gatherings and shared how much I love standing at our round, worn coffee table to welcome all to the table. How I love placing a piece of the Eucharistic bread in each open palm. How I miss holding hands in a circle after the meal and proclaiming, "We belong to each other. You are the body of Christ. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace now and forever." I have heard from students over the years that these words mean a great deal to them and help them get through the week. We remember with the meal and the words that we are not alone, that we're in this together.

I told those who showed up for our Maundy Thursday worship that I have ached and longed to share the meal with them and to remind them of these words we hear each week.

But, I wondered, after a conversation with colleagues and my bishop, what if we are invited into sacred waiting? This idea struck me especially for a campus ministry. This generation, after all knows Instagram where, if people post a picture even one day after the picture was taken, it is labeled a "later gram"; Amazon Prime with delivery in two days, or less!; and the phrase "binge watching" Netflix where we can watch entire seasons of shows at once. I joked that when I was in college I had to wait until Thursday nights to catch a new episode of "Friends."

The idea, then, of waiting is a bit more challenging for us now. Perhaps we are called to sit and wait in that difficult space of "not yet." Rather than rushing to a solution to replace what we once had, what if we are invited into "sacred waiting"? And, as my bishop and a former student reminded me, what if that is exactly where Jesus meets us? In the waiting. In that uncomfortable space. In our longing.

I reminded us on Maundy Thursday that even if we can't be together, we still belong to each other, and "you are still the body of Christ."

That night, LCC alum Scott Sutter texted me a beautiful response to worship that included these words: "It seems that sacred waiting is indeed what's on God's agenda this Holy Week, and perhaps I need it more than I thought. We'll all be a little bit more like the disciples in the upper room this Easter, sheltering in place and surrounded by fear, but if our God is anything like I believe our God to be, that is exactly where Christ will meet us."

Amen. Let it be so. I believe it to be.

Hope against hope,
Pastor Corrine Haulotte

Council Report

Central Lutheran Church Council Meeting - March 17, 2020

PRESENT: Pastor Short, Scott Mlynczak, Chris Nisbit, Bill Davis, Marie Holmquist, Tammy Swenson Lepper, Paul Ness, Myrna Olson, Kelly Dicke, John Bartholow

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Scott opened with devotions.

Paul moved, Chris seconded, carried to approve the agenda.

Chris moved, Marie seconded, carried to approve the February 18, 2020, minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paul gave the following Treasurer's report:

Operations:

General Offering Income was \$53,468 for the two months against a budget of \$56,073, an unfavorable variance of (\$2,605). Slightly short.

Expenses were fairly normal with the noted exception of Property Expense. \$35,333 was expended in the two months with a budget of \$17,751, a negative variance of (\$17,581). This is due to our sewer line break outside and the elevator seal break inside. There are still a few thousand more to be spent on the outside landscaping once the ground has thawed. We must take this lump and hope there are no more this year.

The bottom line, performance for the two months was (\$55,560) compared to budget of (\$35,610) an unfavorable variance of (\$19,950) which is explained by the two variances above.

Mortgage:

Mortgage has been reduced to \$257,948 at the end of February. We have an excess Building Fund balance of \$23,733 to pay the mortgage this year, so this is well in hand.

Balance Sheet:

On the Balance Sheet our cash position has dropped from \$280,847 at the end of December to \$161,201 at the end of February. Our operating losses and payment of This is God's House capital program payments makes up the decline.

Investments are down \$3,301 in February from January due to the Corona Virus stock market implosion in late February. We should expect further losses in March until the market turns around substantially. It is not time to get out.

Child Care:

Child Care through February was fairly normal with a loss on operations of (\$1,674). The budget for the year is at break even. An additional \$2,414 was spent on revamping the children's bathrooms which is considered non-operational.

Continued on next page...

Council Report

Going forward we will not be having church services for a while and we will understand more in a month what the financial affect will be. We need to look at ways for members to contribute financial such as online payments and autopay.

Marie moved, Tammy seconded, carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS

House that God Built - The celebration and kickoff scheduled for March 22 has been put on hold. Phase Two is almost complete. There is a need to update the computer in the balcony used to record services and for online viewing. The approximate cost is \$1,000.

Organ Repairs - A representative will meet with Council in the near future to explain the repairs needed. Repairs are currently on hold.

Repurposed Rooms - The rooms will be named from books of the Bible.

Appointment of Council Secretary - Paul Ness moved, Bill Davis seconded, carried to appoint Myrna Olson as Secretary of the Church Council for one year.

NEW BUSINESS

Email addresses for Councilmembers - Kelly Dicke explained that each member would have an email address through the church Google system which will also give more access to documents as needed.

Water Fountains - Three new water fountains, which include bottle fillers, will be installed at a cost of approximately \$2,000 each. The Daycare will pay for two of the fountains and one paid for by the church. Tammy moved, Marie seconded, carried to approve the installation.

Coronavirus

- There will be no in person gatherings of more than 10 people.
- Worship will be online and live streamed. Services will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube, Facebook, and on the Church's website.

Mission Statement of Central Lutheran Church

We are disciples of Jesus, living faithfully, welcoming all, worshipping in community, growing faith and serving compassionately.

Financial Report

Operating Fund

May 2020

Total Income:

\$35,673.63

Total Expenses:

\$48,693.65

Offering Goal **APRIL**

\$46,459.62

Thank you for your support of Central's ministry.

Mortgage

Monthly payments for interest and

principal March: \$3,146.00

Gifts for Building Fund March:

\$953.00

Gifts for additional mortgage -

Principal reduction March: \$650.00

Mortgage principal balance on April 1:

\$254,949.58

Gifts in memory or honor of someone

MEMORIALS

March 19, 2020 through April 16, 2020

In Memory of Bonnie Bertel

Given by Arnold & Alanna Fenske

In Memory of Michael Spande

Given by Lois Larson

YOUTH FUND

In Memory of Tom Severson

Given by Lynn & Davis Theurer, Dwight Casper, Shannon Hanzel, MaryAnn Severson,

CHILDCARE CENTER

In Memory of Tom Severson

Given by Kathy Hovell

BUILDING FUND

In Memory of Tom Severson

Given by Karen Littlejohn

LUTHERAN CAMPUS CENTER

In Memory of Tom Severson

Given by Jerry & Joyce Dahl

"THIS IS THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT" CAMPAIGN

In Memory of Tom Severson

Given by Ardyce Paulson

QUILTERS

Memory of Bonnie Bartel

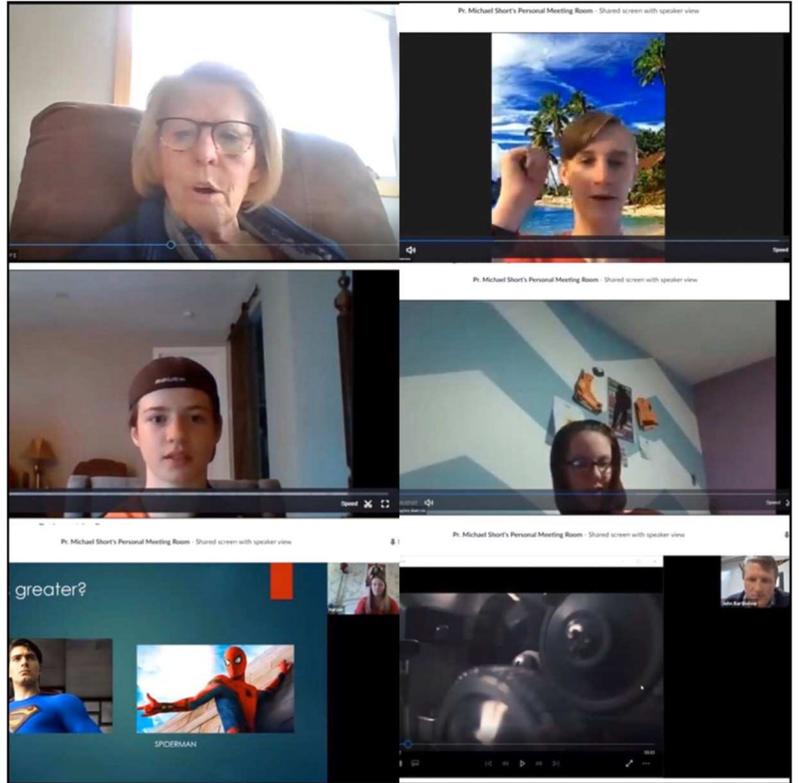
Given by Lynn & David Theurer

THRIVENT DOLLARS

Dale Klabo, Gayle Garrity, Arlan Runnigen, Rolland Ledbuhr, Steve Everson, Marilyn Marquardt

Designated Gifts in February

Capital Campaign	\$3,054.46
Quilters	\$220.00
Funeral	\$275.00
Missions	\$71.00
World Hunger	\$200.00
WVS Food Shelf	\$404.00
Medical Relief	\$1,000.00
ELCA Lutheran Disaster	\$35.00
Youth Fund	\$4,631.00
Youth Mission Trip Fund	\$178.00
Sunday School	\$16.00
Feast	\$885.43
CLCC Fundraisers	\$45.00
Memorial Fund	\$200.00
Security System	\$1,502.00





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office@centrallutheranchurch.org

Return Service Requested

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CLC Worship Schedule

LIVE STREAM TIMES

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m.

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Watch for Service Bulletins to be sent via E-news on Saturdays, you will also be able to access them on our website to follow along during services under Sermon Links.

At Central, we are looking to provide as many ways to view our church services from home as possible. We will be live streaming services on our Church Facebook page which can also be found on our Church website.

We also have our Sunday services broadcast on television; Mondays at 7 PM on Spectrum #986; and Wednesday at 5 PM on HBC #20.

If you or someone you know doesn't have a computer and would like to listen by telephone, call (312) 626-6799, and dial meeting ID 426 218 2310#, then press # again.

We thank you for your patience as we learn and offer these new ways to worship. If you are having trouble accessing our services, please e-mail the church office at office@centrallutheranchurch.org.

"We are disciples of Jesus, living faithfully, welcoming all, worshiping in community, growing faith and serving compassionately."