

CLC NEWSLETTER

April 2026



Vision & Mission

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

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



Inside

Page 2	Pastor Short's Message
Page 3	Pastor Massa's Message
Page 4	Worship, Music & Arts
Page 5	Child Care Center News
Page 6	Lutheran Campus Center
Page 7	CLC Events
Page 8	CLC Events Continued
Page 9	CLC Happenings
Page 10	Holy Week @ Central
Page 11	Council Report
Page 12	Financial Report & Volunteer Opportunity
Page 13	Church Calendar

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTING PASTOR

He has Risen! He has Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

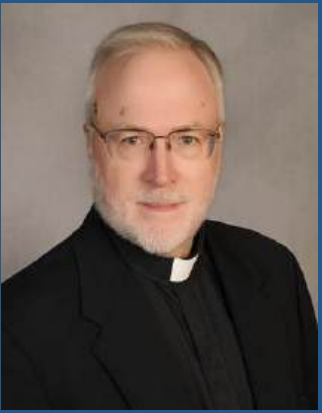
This is the declaration which is pronounced on Easter Sunday as we celebrate Christ's victory over death. In each of the gospels Jesus tells his disciples and others as they made their way to Jerusalem for his final Passover that he would be arrested and killed but on the third day rise again and that is what happened.

With the arrival of Easter, we start a new season in the church year. For the next Fifty days leading up to the day of Pentecost is a time when we hear stories of Jesus showing himself to the disciples and other followers. Here we are told Jesus reminds them of all the things he taught them as he prepares them to be sent out to be his witnesses in the world. At the end of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus gives them what is called the 'Great Commission' telling them to: "Go and make disciples of all nations" as he reminds them that he will be with them to the end of the age. The sending and Jesus' promise to be with them was not just for the disciples but for each of us as well.

During my time in Tanzania I was thoughtful about what it means to be sent. That was because in Tanzania our group stood out, especially in the rural places we visited, as we were the only white people in the area. Then because I am a pastor, along with Bishop Regina, we were honored guest, being seated in places of honor, the first to be welcomed, the first to be served. As Bishop and I talked all of that became a little exhausting, knowing you were constantly watched and observed and waited on. Yet for the people we visited, it was not only their way of honoring us but of showing radical hospitality. As such they gave witness to not only their culture but to their way of life and to their faith.

In my everyday life here in Winona, I can sometimes be anonymous, while many people know I am as a pastor not everyone does. At the same time, I am sure I am seen and watched as much here as I was in Tanzania. Not unlike the way you are as you go about your everyday life. While others may not notice everything you or I do, they do notice if something is out of the ordinary. Like a couple weeks ago I was going into a store downtown and as I entered there was a woman just leaving. As I held the door for her, she said: 'thank you, not everyone does that anymore.' That is a habit my mother instilled in me decades ago, it is something I do, at the same time it was nice to be noticed for that simple act of kindness.

Simple acts of kindness that can make a difference in the lives of others. Most times these simple acts of kindness are noticed, but not always recognized and they do not need to be to make a difference in the life of others. Being sent into the world does not always mean giving direct witness to your faith or about Jesus or the difference he makes in your life. Simple acts of kindness speak clearly to who you are and to your beliefs and will occasionally open the door for you to witness and give thanks to Jesus who sends us. We do so because He has risen, He has risen indeed. Alleluia!



REV.
MICHAEL
SHORT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The last 6 weeks have been a flurry of activity for me and the youth and family at Central. At the end of February, we had two busy weekends that supported the youth and our Central congregation. On February 20th, our youth put on a fish fry, with the help of the Eagles Club, to raise money for their upcoming mission trip to Colorado. Central and the community showed up for our youth and we were four tickets away from a complete sell out. We raised enough to send four more students on the trip!

The following weekend, we had our 2nd annual bingo night that included all ages, from 0-94. It was a fun night full of pizza, popcorn, prizes, laughs and fellowship. The following day, on February 28th, we hosted a group of high school students at Central for our "Blaze Youth Retreat" where we focused on learning about how we can continue to lean into our faith outside the walls of church. The day included contemporary worship- complete with a praise band, small groups, games, crafts and good food- which is the key to any teenager's heart.

Not only have we had lots of things happening lately, but we have more still to come. The end of March brings us our "Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt" and first communion class. In April we will be busy planning the end of Sunday School- complete with a church picnic on May 3rd, and VBS, happening July 13-16.

So many wonderful things are happening, and this ministry can't be done without your support. I would be amiss if I didn't say thank you. Thank you to those who pray for us, thank you to those who continually give to the youth fund, and the youth mission trip fund. Your donations, no matter how small or big is an investment in the lives of not only youth, but all generations at Central who benefit from the work that happens in family ministry.

Thank you for helping plant seeds of faith in all of us,

Pastor Kristen Massa



REV.
KRISTEN
MASSA



A MESSAGE FROM OUR WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS DIRECTOR

"Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress."
– Timothy 4:15

PROGRESS COMES IN MANY FORMS

As I write this, I am awaiting a visit from the organ technicians from Grandall & Engen. The Hendrickson Pipe Organ will receive its annual "tune up" before Easter. While the techs are at Central, I will discuss the timeline for the organ renovation in 2027 – when it will begin, the approximate length we will be without the instrument, and if they see any potential issues that are not addressed in their current proposal. I will report their response to the council next month.

I have contacted three outstanding organists for a "Countdown to Renovation" noontime organ recital series. The recitals will begin in September as part of our fundraising campaign. Other ideas for fundraising include:

- "Name a pipe" – a sliding scale based on the pipe size
- "Favorite hymn" – donation of \$XX to have a favorite hymn programmed
- "Least favorite hymn" – donation of \$XX to not have a hymn programmed

We have already raised more than 30% of the approximately \$200,000 goal. Please let me know what your ideas are for reaching our goal by the middle of next year. It's going to be an exciting journey!

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about outdoor summer worship. After discussion with the pastors and senior staff, we have decided to hold 2 outdoor worship services this summer. On June 28, 2026, Central will worship at the MN Marine Art Museum. On July 26, 2026, Central will join with our friends from various Winona congregations for an ecumenical service at Lake Park Band Shell. We will not hold an outdoor service in August this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On April 11, Central will welcome **Sugarloaf Theatre** back for their annual 24-hour theatre event! The theme this year will be arts and crafts.

If you are unfamiliar with the concept of 24-Hour Theatre, essentially, they write, rehearse, and perform three original short plays all within a period of 24 hours. The event will start with a meeting on the evening of April 10 at 7pm at Nate & Ally's (109 E 3rd St, Winona). All actors, writers, and directors will gather to discuss plans for the next day.

After the meeting, everyone will go home, and writers will craft their plays on the clock while all the performers get a good night's rest before the next day. The next morning, everyone will gather back together and rehearse 10am-6:30pm with breaks at Central until the performance for the public at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

All community members ages 12+ are welcome to sign up to perform as actors in the event. Scan the QR code below to register. There is no fee to register.

No audition is required! Just sign up and show up!! Tickets for the performance are only \$10 each and may be purchased online at the event or at the door by cash or card 30 minutes prior.

On Sunday April 19, 2026, at 4 pm, the **WSU Choirs** return for their Spring Concert. Their director, Dr. Colleen Chester has told me on how much the groups appreciate performing in our space – both aesthetically and acoustically. Dr. Chester and I are also working to reschedule the Winona Community Sing event that was postponed last month due to numerous conflicts.

It continues to be my honor, privilege, and joy to serve this amazing congregation.

Blessings, always.

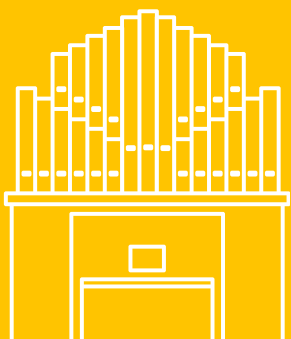
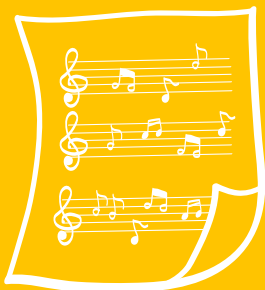
–
A. Eric Heukeshoven, M.S.
Director of Worship, Music & Arts

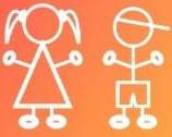


Sugarloaf Registration



A. ERIC HEUKESHOVEN





Central Lutheran Church
Child Care Center

April Center News

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

A Lot of Learning Going On!

When you walk into CLC CCC you may not realize it, but there is a lot happening in every classroom and at every age! The month of March brought a love for reading in every classroom, with every age group celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday with rhyming books and hands-on activities. We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a Wacky Week of Dress Up days, including Dress Like Your Parent. It's so fun to see how the children and staff get into the fun of this week! All age groups have also loved the warmer weather peaking through a few days a time and have been finding themselves outside more and more on the playground and around the neighborhood on walks!



Summer Staff

The center is currently looking to hire staff for our summertime program! If you know someone who is interested in working with children this summer who enjoys being active and spending time outside they can apply at:

childcarecenter@centrallutheranchurch.org



Enrollment

Our Infant Enrollment is open for Jan/Feb 2027. It is never too early to put your name on our list if you are expecting or planning on expecting.



**Thank you for your support of
CLC CCC and the team!
Together we are better!**

Questions, please contact us...
childcarecenter@centrallutheranchurch.org

As I write this, five students and I just returned from the borderlands in El Paso, TX and Las Cruces, NM. We spent WSU's Spring Break week there, learning from the people, land, organizations, and even the animals.

Mateo, our guide on Day One, took us to the fence/wall at the border in El Paso. While there, I watched birds flying and heard them singing their calls. I remembered then that I'd also observed birds darting back and forth between México and the U.S. when I was there with other students three years ago. A few minutes after I shared the thought aloud with Mateo and our group, he pointed out a bird perched in the middle of the barbed wire atop the fence. We paused, contemplating her synchronous presence. Mateo talked about the necessary migration of butterflies and how the creature is an important symbol for the area. Monarchs undertake a 3,000 mile migration journey, which mirrors many migrants' experience. As we left the border wall, we spotted two butterfly murals.

Later in the week, I took the students to an historic plaza in Old Mesilla. As we walked among the shops and people, with stories of immigrants echoing within us from the week, I came across some pottery made in México. One of the plates was decorated with a bird and a butterfly, almost touching. I decided to bring the plate home with me to remind me of the natural migration that occurs every day in our world, as well as the hard journeys and the touching stories we heard.

There is much to share about our time in the borderlands, and we look forward to doing that. For now, let me impress upon you two things: 1) The communities there are so lovingly hospitable with food, language, people, and groups that are living out Christ's grace; and 2) On our last evening, after a week of learning some brutal facts and stories, a student reflected: "I feel renewed. I feel renewed to go back out and share."

You are a part of our LCC journey, dear church. Wherever we go, wherever we are, you come alongside us in your prayers, support, and love. Thank you.



CLC EVENTS



Root River Spring Conference (Winona, Fillmore and Houston county)

Where: Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Houston, MN

When: Saturday April 18th- registration and fellowship @ 9 am, Program "Gardens of the Bible @ 9:30 am, Lunch

Who: All women of Central Lutheran are invited

How: pre registration is preferred; sign up with Gayle Garrity, gaylegarrity@yahoo.com, at Shayna's desk, or at conference. The \$15 fee includes coffee and lunch, checks can be made out to SE MN Synod Women of the ELCA. Central Lutheran WELCA will arrange rides if needed.

Why: This is a great way to meet women from other churches in our area, to learn more about WELCA and to enjoy an interesting program with a delicious meal.

Special Note: They will collect a love offering that will go to the LCC this year.

How Does your Garden Grow?

When: Monday, April 27th, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Grace Hall

What: Cindy Welke and Laura Armstrong, Master Gardeners will be with us to talk about anything gardening. Bring your questions, ideas, gardening books/seed catalogs, or special tools you love or pictures of gardens to share!

Who: All women at Central Lutheran are invited, especially those who are busy during the day

How: Just show up, there may be treats, casual attire

Why: Connecting with other women at Central strengthens our community and thinking about gardens nurtures our creativity.

Celebrate Spring with piano music, pie and friends!

WIN is hosting a piano and pie event for a spring fundraiser in Grace Hall on Sunday, April 12th, from 2:00 to 4:00. Piano music will be provided by Nancy Baechler. An assortment of pies will be provided by the excellent pie makers of the WIN Committee. The cost is \$5.00 for music, a slice of pie and a beverage. Beverage options will be coffee, flavored coffee, iced tea or lemonade. Come and celebrate spring with beautiful music, delicious pie and wonderful friends. Tickets will be available at the door. See you there!

We appreciate all that you do

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

When: April 26th 9:30-11:00 am
Where: Grace Hall

Why: All volunteers at Central are GREATLY appreciated

Activities: Catered breakfast, a 5-10 minute neck, shoulder, or back massage provided by Amber Bork, hand massage provided by Rebecca Valentine

***RSVP for the breakfast by April 22nd** by contacting Shayna in the church office
507-452-5156

We appreciate all that you do



BRIGHT SUNDAY

Bright Sunday, often called Holy Humor Sunday, is the Sunday after Easter in which congregations express joy of the resurrection through worship service. The tradition dates all the way back to the early church in 300-400 AD, where people would gather for “days of laughter and joy” by having picnics, telling jokes, singing and dancing as the observed Jesus’ defeat over death.

Central Lutheran will celebrate Bright Sunday this year, as we come together with joy and laughter to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. We encourage you to wear your fun or funny hats and costumes, bring a joke to share and come ready to be joyful.



APRIL 12

Save the Date!

VBS 2026
JULY 13-16

Come join us this summer as we learn more about Gods love for us and the world! Can you guess our theme based on this graphic?

CLC HAPPENINGS

Central Lutheran Book Group

Central Lutheran Book Group will meet on the second Friday of every month at 10:00 am.

Please consider joining us. Contact Rev. Diane Markevitch 608-642-1542 or Gayle Garrity for more information.

The reading list:

April 10: Culpability by Bruce Holsinger

Culpability explores a world newly shaped by chatbots, autonomous cars, drones, and other nonhuman forces in ways that are thrilling, challenging, and unimaginably provocative.

May 8: The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

June 12: The Satisfaction Cafe by Kathy Wang

FEAST

The FEAST is nearing the end of the 2025-2026 meal season, and has many people to be thankful for. The dishwasher was not working from the last meal in December until the second meal in March. That's a lot of dishes to wash by hand. So, a shout out to our loyal dishwashing crew-Tim and Laurie Laib, Chris Nisbit, John Paulson, Paul Berhow, Linda Bouck, and Dave Hackbarth. Thank you so much for your humor and hard work.

We need someone to deliver meals the last three weeks of April, the 15th, 22nd, and 29th. If you can deliver meals to homebound members, we would appreciate an hour of your time, with no driving in the dark this time of year! Please call Laurie Laib, 454-6746 if you are able to help with this.

Join us for some great meals in April:

April 1: No FEAST, Holy Week activities

April 8: Jay Duresky, cook. Pulled Pork

April 15: Joe Palubicki, cook. Rosemary Chicken

April 22: Bonnie Burdick, cook. Pork Ribs, potatoes, cole slaw

April 29: Cindy Welke, cook. Mystery Surprise, always a delicious surprise!

Please join fellow Central members, and members of the community for a great meal on Wednesdays. Serving 4:45-6:00.

Social Concerns

On February 19, the Social Concerns Committee members attended Pastor Linda's worship service at Calista Court with Central Lutheran residents.

Following the service, everyone gathered with other residents for treats and great conversation with Pastor Short.



Flannel Sheets and Blankets Needed

The quilters are low on material for fillers in our mission quilts. We need gently used, clean flannel sheets or bed sized blankets. If you come across some that you could spare while you're spring cleaning closets, the quilters would love to take them off your hands. Please leave them in the WELCA box by the coat closet near the Narthex. Many thanks!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

at Central Lutheran Church

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Worship Service at 6:00 pm

Good Friday, April 3

Worship Service at 6:00 pm

Easter Vigil, April 4

Worship Service at 6:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 5

Worship Services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am

CHURCH COUNCIL

COUNCIL REPORT: FEBRUARY 17, 2026

PRESENT: Pastor Short, Pastor Massa, Steve Everson, Tim Laib, Steve Hacken, Tammy Swenson Lepper, Julie Palubick

ABSENT: JEREMY JOHNSON

Tim Laib called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions: Tammy Swenson Lepper

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Steve E., seconded, Steve H. Unanimously approved, with the addition of two items from Pr. Kristen and an item from Tim.

Report from chair of Youth Committee, Judy Davis. There are many events and activities occurring this year, including a Fish Fry, a bingo night, all day retreat for students from the Root River conference, 3rd and 4th graders will have First Communion on Maundy Thursday, advertising VBS at an event at WSHS, week of July 19th is VBS, and the theme will be “River of Life,” Denver for Mission Trip, and many, many other things.

Approval of Minutes: Steve H. moved, Steve E. seconded. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Treasurer’s Report: Steve Hacken presented the Treasurer’s report for January. [insert figures from treasurer's report here]

Following discussion of the treasurer’s report, Tammy moved, Steve E. seconded, motion carried for January’s treasurer’s report. Discussion of how to portray expenses to the congregation.

Old Business:

- Childcare expansion: Nothing to report.
- Constitution and Bylaw: Nothing to report
- House Purchase: Completed; need to find a team of 4 or 5 to plan the “Central Block” over the long term. Shorter term: we need guidelines for use of raised beds.

New Business:

- Wall for Shayna’s desk: we need to find someone new to build the wall around Shayna’s desk.
- Central Stories: We need to figure out who’s doing Central Stories each month. Judy Davis is on the schedule. Invite people who might be interested in sharing.
- Cooking for the LCC: May 3rd.
- Cooking for the Feast: We are cooking for The Feast on March 4th chili and pulled pork available for potato bar; serving at the Feast on April 15th.
- Best Practices of Intergenerational Worship: Pastor Kristen would like to get a team together to talk about intergenerational worship at CLC.
- Upcoming Events: Synod Assembly is on May 2nd in Mankato; we can have up to 6 representatives attend. Members can reach out to the pastors if they wish to attend.

Steve H. moved to approve staff and committee reports; Julie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Julie will do devotions on March 17th.

Steve E. moved to adjourn the meeting, Julie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

PAST PRESIDENT

Steve Everson

PRESIDENT

Tim Laib

PRESIDENT ELECT

TREASURER

Steve Hacken

SECRETARY

Jeremy Johnson

AT LARGE

Tammy
Swenson-
Lepper

AT LARGE

Julie Palubicki



FINANCIAL REPORT

February 2026
Total Income: \$39,171.25
Total Expenses: \$71,520.85



Offering Goal: \$32,349.60

Thank you for your support of Central's Ministry

Gifts in memory or honor of someone **Memorials February 17, 2026 through March 17, 2026**

In Honor of Kathy Benke
Given by Don and Sandra Curtin

In Memory of Milton Topness
Given by LaVern & Nancy Hauschildt, Joni Klagge, Peggy Twait, and Don & Sandra Curtin

In Memory of Conway Elton
Given by Shelley & John Milek

Designated Gifts in February

Building Maintenance Fund	\$448.00
WVS Food Shelf	\$184.00
Youth Fund	\$128.00
Organ Fund	\$600.00
FEAST	\$767.00
Youth Mission	\$786.00
Memorials	\$110.00
Quilters	\$121.00

Volunteer Opportunity of the Month: Lector (Reader)

Each week the Lector comes forward to read the lessons prior to the Gospel. The first and second readings connect with the Gospel and to the sermon. While it might seem scary at first, being the Lector is a simple act of reading the words of scripture.

You would be asked to read the lesson ahead of time as you prepare, then to read slowly and clearly so others can hear you.

The pastors will help with strange or difficult words. Please consider offering your gift as a Lector at one of our services. You can sign up online on the church's webpage under the *serve* tab.

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	2	3
				6:00 pm, Maundy Thursday Service	Office Closed 6:00 pm, Good Friday Service	6:00 pm, Easter Vigil Service
5 Easter Sunday 8:30 am, Worship 10:30 am, Worship	6 9:30 am, WELCA 6:15 pm, WIN	7 9:00 am, Quilters	8 4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation	9 10:00 am, Welcome & Worship 6:00 pm, Cloroso Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Adult Choir Rehearsal	10 10:00 am, CLC Book Group	11
12 Bright/Holy Humor Sunday 8:30 am, Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, Worship 2:00 pm, WIN Piano & Pie	13	14 9:00 am, Quilters 5:00 pm, Property Committee Meeting	15 1:30 pm, Esther Circle 4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation	16 1:30 pm, Hannah Circle 6:00 pm, Cloroso Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Adult Choir Rehearsal	17 9:00 am, Greg Hagen's Funeral 1:00 pm, Game Day	18 9:00 am, WELCA Root River Conference in Houston MN 10:00 am, Marian Mason's Funeral
19	20	21 9:00 am, Quilters 5:00 pm, Safety & Security Meeting 6:30 pm, Council Meeting	22 4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation	23 6:00 pm, Cloroso Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Adult Choir Rehearsal	24	25
8:30 am, Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, Worship 4:00 pm, WSU Spring Choir Concert	Newsletter Articles Due 9:00 am, Social Concerns 5:00 pm, Welcoming Table 5:30 pm, Youth Committee Meeting					
26	27	28	29	30		
9:30 - 11:00 Volunteer Appreciation 8:30 am, Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, Worship	6:30 pm, WELCA- How Does Your Garden Grow?	9:00 am, Newsletter Volunteers 9:00 am, Quilters	4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation	6:00 pm, Cloroso Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Adult Choir Rehearsal	Charter Service- Monday's @ 7pm- Channel 986	



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55987

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What's Coming Up

April 2- 6:00 pm, Maundy Thursday Service

April 3- Office Closed

6:00 pm, Good Friday Service

April 4- 6:00 pm, Easter Vigil Worship

April 5- 8:30 & 10:30 am, Easter Worship

April 6- Bright/Holy Humor Sunday

12:00 pm, WIN Piano & Pies

April 18- 9:00 am, WELCA Root River Conference - Houston MN

April 19- 4:00 pm, WSU Spring Choir Concert

April 26- 9:30 - 11:00 am, Volunteer Appreciation

April 27- 6:30 pm, WELCA - How Does Your Garden Grow?



507.452.5156

Contact Us

centrallutheranchurch.org



office@centrallutheranchurch.org

259 W. Wabasha St.
Winona, MN 55987

