

# CLC NEWSLETTER

December 2025



## 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	CLC Events
Page 7	CLC Happenings
Page 8	Council Report
Page 9	Council Report Continued
Page 10	Financial Report / Central Stories
Page 11	Church Calendar

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTING PASTOR

Sisters and brothers in Christ;

I give thanks to God for each of you and for the many ways you support the staff and the ministries of Central. You have and continue to stand up, giving your time and your resources to be sure the mission of this place is fulfilled.

We have talked over the last year about the renewal of the organ, a project many of you continue to support. Alongside that project we discussed how we might refresh our sanctuary at the same time. Then in September we were offered an opportunity to purchase the house in our parking lot and consolidate the Central block which has put the sanctuary part of the project on hold.

At a special congregational meeting you overwhelmingly supported the purchase of the house. Since then many of you have shown your support by pledging resources. At this time, we have received about half of the support needed for the purchase. We still need your support to complete the purchase without getting a loan, even a gift of \$500 or \$1,000 towards the purchase will make a difference.

Along the way you have continued to support the many fundraisers for our youth to go on mission trips along with other groups like WELCA and Social Concerns and the food shelf. These are just some of the many ways you as members make Central a place that others want to come and join.

Even with all these special requests, you continue to support and give to the operations of the church and its ministries. The budget is not the most exciting but the most needed place for your support. In the last couple of years, we have worked to grow our ministry, to actively engage our youth and families, to continue our engagement within the community with music and arts, all of which is possible thanks to the staff and dedicated volunteers. The last couple years we passed a deficit budget relying on our reserves to make up the difference. This year was no different, yet now our reserves are dwindling and we are working to slow the impact on those reserves.

I want to reassure you that I along with the staff and council work hard to be good stewards of the gifts you have entrusted to us. Yet just as within your household, while income has made small gains, expenses have increased at a faster rate. I am continually grateful for your ongoing support of the ministries of Central, yet now I have the uneasy task of asking you not to forget your giving to the budget which pays the staff and keeps the lights on. There are options for some of you to support the ministries through gifts of stocks or direct gifts from an IRA. Please check with your financial advisor as you consider these types of gifts.

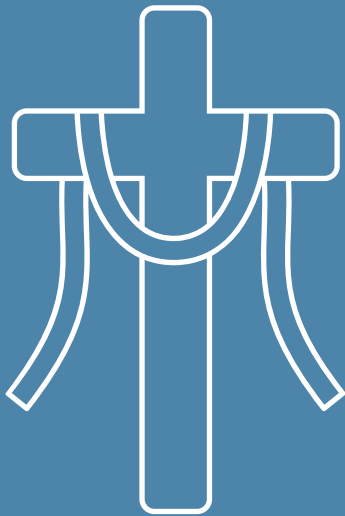
In the meantime, if you plan to send support for the purchase of the house, please be sure to note that on your check or envelope. If you would like to find out more about being a sustainer, giving electronically there are forms in the office for you to fill out. If you have questions, I would be happy to buy you a cup of coffee, answer your questions as we discuss the mission and ministries of Central.

Again, I want to thank you for the many ways you support the life and the work and the ministries of Central. Most of all I give thanks to God for your ongoing support and encouragement of the staff as they continue to work hard for you and for the church fulfilling God's mission in this place.

Peace, Pr Michael



REV.  
MICHAEL  
SHORT



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ-

As we bring 2025 to a close, I look back on our year and feel immensely blessed. Central has worked tirelessly to continue to spread the Gospel, serve our neighbors, and be lights for our community. One question that I always come back to in ministry to gauge how we are doing in our mission is, "would the neighborhood/community feel the loss of our church if we were suddenly gone one day?". This question isn't just about how we serve the neighbor, but it's also about how we love others and how we are a beacon of light on a weary world.

This year we have used the gifts that we have so well to make this work happen. Our time, our talents and our resources have been shared with each other, shared with the world outside of our walls and most importantly, shared and given to God. Simply put- we have stewarded our resources with heart. I know that there's a lot of talk in church about stewardship- how we take care and use the things in life that we have. How we use our strengths and gifts to serve God and our community, how we care for each other with our time, and how we use our resources, often as money, to continue to grow the kingdom of God and share the love of Jesus with others.

Stewardship and our mission go hand in hand. In order to continue to "gather in the love of Christ to connect, serve, and grow," as our church's mission statement says, we have to steward what we have. We have to think wisely about our generosity, what we can offer as a body of believers to continue to live out our mission. Stewardship greatly affects what we do at church to not just be a church with four walls, but a church with a mission that is lived outside of four walls. Thinking and using resources to serve Christ, to serve our neighborhood affect the one question I stated earlier- "would our impact be felt if we were gone?".

Church, we make a great impact on our community outside and inside the church. From the feast meals, to Vacation Bible School, to Winona Immigration Network, to quilts sent all over the world, you have made an impact. As one of your pastors, I cannot tell you how proud I am to be a pastor of this church. It is an honor to walk alongside of you every day. In our coming weeks, I challenge you to think about how you steward your life- what time you give to certain things, what you do or don't spend your money on, how you use your talents. What changes can we all make in the coming year to continue to challenge our faith and continue to live out our mission in and out of the church?

In Christ Pastor Kristen Massa



REV.  
KRISTEN  
MASSA

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS DIRECTOR

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6)*

## 'TIS THE SEASON TO CELEBRATE!

As 2025 draws to a close, let us celebrate with songs of praise!

On Saturday December 6 at 7 pm the Messiah Sing-in returns for its 31st year! Join director Harry Mechell, Bella Musica, orchestra and soloists and sing along to the stirring choruses from Handel's masterpiece! New this year, the Winona Community Chorale will be featured on contemporary holiday favorites. Tickets for the event are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors and will be available at the door. Donations of non-perishable food items or money will be given to Winona Volunteer Services.

The following Saturday, December 13, the Winona Brass Band returns for a holiday performance at 11 am as part of WELCA's annual bake sale, salad luncheon, and craft sale. Come for the goodies and stay for a delightful morning of holiday music!

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**So many chances to rejoice in the birth of our Savior!**

- November 30 – First Sunday of Advent – worship at 8:30 and 10:30 am
- December 7 – Second Sunday of Advent – worship at 8:30 and 10:30 am
- December 14 – Third Sunday of Advent – worship at 8:30 and 10:30 am
- December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – one service at 9:30 am with Sunday School Program
- December 21 – Blue Christmas – worship at 6:30 pm
- Christmas Eve – Services at 4:00, 5:30, 7:00 and 11:00 pm
- Christmas Day – One service at 9:30 am
- December 28 – Service of Lessons & Carols – 9:30 pm

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

Blessings, always.

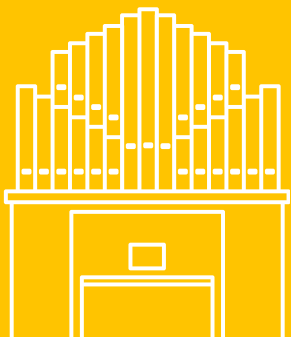
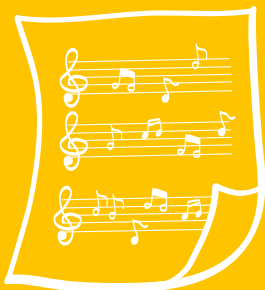
--

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



Dr. Henry Mechell invites the audience to sing along at last year's Messiah Sing-In

A. ERIC  
HEUKESHOVEN





Central Lutheran Church  
Child Care Center

# December Center News

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

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for your support of the child care center staff and for the love shown to our littles every day! We hope that you enjoy this time of year and get to experience it with those you love!



### Contribution to Winona Community

The early childhood years are extremely crucial to a child's development. Our program is essential to working families and a vital component to a strong community!

We currently serve 39 families and 50 children who are 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.



Community Helpers was a recent topic of study in our 4K Classroom.

Ms. Tricia from the Winona Public Library and Brandon from Topper's Pizza!



They welcomed in various people from the community to share with them about how they help others!

Dr. Geislinger from Walnut Street Dental and Nurse Caesy from Winona Health!



Thank you for your support of CLC CCC and the team!

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



WELCA, the Women of the ELCA, from Central Lutheran Church, will host a **Christmas Bake Sale, Craft Sale, and Lunch on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 until 1:00 in Grace Hall.** The Craft Sale will be in the Narthex. Come and purchase your favorite cookies, baked goods, candy, lefse, Stories in Light 2026 stained glass window calendars, Central Lutheran Church Cookbooks, and crafts. The Winona Brass Band will present a concert of holiday favorites in the Sanctuary at 11:00 (freewill offering). Members of the Hannah Circle will serve a lunch that includes chicken noodle soup, choice of egg, ham, or chicken salad sandwiches, coffee, water, and dessert.

Carry outs will be available. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the Winona Volunteer Services Food Shelf. Invite your friends! Come for the sales. Stay for lunch. Enjoy the Concert! Please contact Denise Bernatz (507) 459-2969 with questions. We hope to see you there!

### Baked Goods Needed

WELCA needs lots of cookies, candy, cake, bars, pies, snacks, and breads for the Christmas Bake Sale. As you do your Christmas baking please consider setting aside some of your baking specialties to donate to the sale. You may bring donations to Grace Hall on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, anytime between 9 AM and 6 PM. If you need to bring donations on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, please take them to the kitchen door off of the parking lot between 8-8:30 AM. It is helpful if you package your donations, but we can also package them for you. Thank you for your generosity and support of this important WELCA fundraiser.

### Other Bake Sale Volunteer Opportunities

WELCA needs volunteers for various committees to ensure a successful bake sale. We are looking for volunteers for the following committees: **Marketing, Rosettes, Packaging, Pricing, Krumkake, Baked Goods, Sunday Sale.** Please call Denise Bernatz at (507) 459-2969 if you would like to help with one of the committees, or have questions about what is involved. You would not have to do it all yourself!

### Central Lutheran Book Group

The book group will meet on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM (**note time change**) in Grace Hall. We will be discussing "Angels-God's Secret Agents" by Billy Graham. This book, first written in 1975 and updated in 1995, is Dr. Graham's study of the presence and power of these special beings. He feels there are angels in our midst, but not all supernatural forces are good, and not all angels are from God. All are welcome to join this discussion.

### FEAST

The FEAST Committee and volunteers are working hard to provide a weekly meal, particularly during challenging and uncertain times for some members of our community. Thank you to all of our amazing community volunteers who support this effort with their time and talent. We are always looking for volunteers for everything from cooking the meal to tasks as quick and easy as wrapping silverware the day before the meal. We also always need drivers for take outs, especially during these winter months. Can you support this ministry? Please call Laurie Laib to volunteer: 507-454-6746

## December Menu

**December 3:** Joe Palubicki- pork sandwich, cheesy potatoes, fruit-veggie, dessert

**December 10:** Jim Deedrick, Dan Krumholtz- chow mein and rice, fruit salad, dessert

**December 17:** Lehnertz Family-Chuck and Rita Lehnertz Holiday Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings

There will be NO FEAST ON DECEMBER 24 & DECEMBER 31. Please check the local news for community meals during this time.

# CLC HAPPENINGS

## WIN

The Winona Immigration Network thanks the members of Central Lutheran for their prayers and support during 2025. Your support of our mission to welcome the stranger has changed the lives of twelve people and enriched the lives of those who know them. We pray they will be free to continue to build new lives and relationships in our country. We wish you a merry Christmas and peace and happiness in 2026. With much gratitude, The WIN Committee and Families.

## Adult Education Classes

Join us Sundays at 9:30 am in Grace Hall during Advent. We will discuss Advent and Christmas traditions!

**November 30<sup>th</sup>**- The Season of Advent

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**- Traditions across the world

**December 14<sup>th</sup>**- Meaning of the Twelve Days of Christmas

## The Social Concerns Committee Sells the Famous RADA Line of Cutlery and Culinary Tools!

This fundraising project supports many activities in our Church and non-profit organizations in the Winona. To view the products visit <https://radakitchenstore.com>

To Order and Support Central Lutheran Church  
<https://radafundraising.com/pages/select-your-fundraising-group>

(Use code SHIPDEAL at checkout to save \$5 on shipping on orders over \$35)

OR

Place a catalogue order with Kathy Benke, [kbenke@hbc.com](mailto:kbenke@hbc.com)



*Merry Christmas*  
*Come worship with us!*

### Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21 at 6:30pm

### Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm, and 11:00pm

### Christmas Day Service

Thursday, December 25 at 9:30am

### Lessons and Carols Service

Sunday, December 28 at 9:30am



# CHURCH COUNCIL

## COUNCIL REPORT: OCTOBER 21, 2025

**PRESENT:** Pastor Short, Pastor Massa, Steve Everson, Tim Laib, Steve Hacken, Tammy Swenson Lepper, Julie Palubicki, Myrna Olson **ABSENT:** Steve Hacken, Scott Mlynczak

Steve Everson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Julie opened with devotions. Scott will have devotions in November.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 16, 2025. Meeting

Tammy moved, Julie seconded, carried to approve the September 16, 2025, minutes.

- October 7, 2025, Special Meeting

Tammy moved, Julie seconded, carried to approve the October 7, 2025, minutes.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The following Treasurer's Report was presented to Council.

#### Central Lutheran Church September Treasurer Report

Here are some general financial summary numbers through the end of September

September Income:	\$47,937
September Offering:	\$38,340
Year to Date Income:	\$379,009
September Expenses:	\$70,670
Year to Date Expenses:	\$531,565
September Balance:	(\$22,733)
Year to Date Balance	(\$152,556)

Financial Notes:

- There were some not typical expenses last month (insurance)
- The negative net balance is less than last year
- Since June, Childcare income is significantly lower than for the same months last year

### CHILD CARE CENTER REPORT

Jackie Whitman, Director of the Child Care Center, gave a comprehensive report to Council on the operation, financial situation, staffing, programming, and enrollment of the Center. There are 43 staff members employed at the Center.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Picture Directory

Pictures schedule started today and there has been a good response to schedule appointments for pictures. Pictures of committees and other groups will be taken and included in the directory.

#### Update on LCC Building and Ministry

The building has been torn down and they are waiting approval of the plans. LCC's Sunday evening gathering continues in Grace Hall.

#### Safety and Security

Discussion was held regarding security of the church, especially during worship services. Ideas discussed were regarding cameras and people monitoring doors and other areas of the church. Different ideas will continue to be explored.

### PAST PRESIDENT

Scott Mlynczak

### PRESIDENT

Steve Everson

### PRESIDENT

#### ELECT

Tim Laib

### TREASURER

Steve Hacken

### SECRETARY

Myrna Olson

### AT LARGE

Tammy  
Swenson-  
Lepper

### AT LARGE

Julie Palubicki



# COUNCIL REPORT CONTINUED

## NEW BUSINESS

### Purchase of House in Parking Lot

The congregation approved the purchase of the house at 260 West Sanborn from the Winona State University Foundation by a vote of 70 to 2. Closing on the house will be before the end of this year. A committee will be formed for visioning of the Central Block.

### Nominating Committee

A list of committee and board positions that will be open in 2026 was presented to Council. The Nominating Committee will provide a list of nominations at the 2026 Annual Meeting for congregation consideration and approval.

### Feast

Tim asked the Council if there was a date that they could serve at the Feast. Following discussion, it was decided to serve on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

## STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were reviewed:

### PASTORS:

- Weekly staff meetings
- Childcare conversation with Faith Lutheran
- Planning for fundraising on organ renewal
- Reviewing Constitution and By-Laws and CLC policies
- Working with members on purchase of house and financing
- Reviewing personnel policies
- Working with Central Stories
- Working with WIN
- Wonders of Worship
- Confirmation, Chapel
- Youth are having two fundraisers, Christmas wreaths and Central gear
- March 14 Council as Leaders meeting in Austin
- Synod Assembly is May 2 in Mankato

### STAFF:

- Central's celebration of all things back in September brought soaring organ music by three amazing performers, a highly amusing play with sword fighting, and incredible chamber music by one of Minnesota's finest ensembles.
- The Child Care Center has 49 children enrolled serving 38 families

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Messiah Sing-in is Saturday, December 6, at 7:00 PM
- October 26 is Confirmation
- Next game day is October 17 at 1:00 PM
- Carpet replacement is on hold
- Waiting for estimates for changes to desk area
- Water main leak on Huff Street, old service needs to be capped
- Landscaping: New plants have been planted

Julie moved, Tim seconded, carried to approve the staff and committee reports.

Social Concerns will make presentation at the November meeting. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 13, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Myrna Olson  
Secretary

# CHURCH COUNCIL

## PAST PRESIDENT

Scott Mlynczak

## PRESIDENT

Steve Everson

## PRESIDENT ELECT

Tim Laib

## TREASURER

Steve Hacken

## SECRETARY

Myrna Olson

## AT LARGE

Tammy  
Swenson-  
Lepper

## AT LARGE

Julie Palubicki



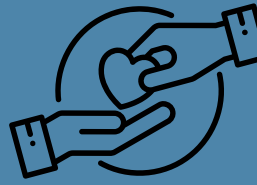
# FINANCIAL REPORT

November 2025

Total Income: \$38,489.30

Total Expenses: \$47,238.34

Offering Goal: \$52,899.00



Thank you for your support of Central's Ministry

Gifts in memory or honor of someone **Memorials October 15, 2025 through November 17, 2025**

**In Memory of Janet Tettenborn**  
Given by Anonymous, Anonymous

**In Memory of Dee Olson**  
Given by Conway and Elizabeth Elton

**In Memory of Joan Jackels**  
Given by Marylou and Jim Hurley

**In Memory of Sandra Olson**  
Given by Donald and Donna Peterson

## Designated Gifts in September

Building Maintenance Fund	\$608.00
WVS Food Shelf	\$330.50
Building Purchase	\$35,000.00
Youth Fund	\$430.00
Organ Fund	\$30.00
FEAST	\$930.16
Memorials	\$55.00
Lutheran Campus Center	\$827.00
Youth Mission	\$1,691.00

## Central Stories

Dear members of Central Lutheran Church

As we approach the end of another year, I am concerned about our Church's financial condition, and would like to brief you on a way that you can help out with contributions from your retirement programs that require annual monetary withdrawals after you reach a certain age.

By directing fund transfers directly from your financial/fund managers to Central Lutheran Church, you can avoid having these withdrawals added to your annual income and thereby by passing any tax payments on them.

I have provided to the church a brief summary on the qualification and procedures for accomplishing this beneficial move that will benefit both you and Central Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted:  
Donald O. Peterson

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>9:30 am, WELCA 6:15 pm, WIN</b>	<b>9:00 am, Quilters</b>	<b>4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation</b>	<b>11:00 am, CLC Book Group 6:00 pm, Clorioso Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Adult Choir Rehearsal</b>		<b>7:00 pm, Messiah Sing-in</b>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>8:30 am, Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, Worship 2:00 pm, Winona HIMS Concert</b>		<b>9:00 am- Quilters 5:00 pm, Property Committee Meeting</b>	<b>4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation</b>	<b>Newsletter Articles Due WELCA Baking Day 10:00 am, Welcome &amp; Worship 6:00 pm, Clorioso Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Adult Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>WELCA Baking Day</b>	<b>9:00 am, WELCA Bake Sale, Craft Sale, &amp; Lunch 11:00 am, Winona Brass Band Concert</b>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>8:30 am, Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 9:30 am, WELCA Craft Sale 10:30 am, Worship</b>	<b>9:00 am, Social Concerns 5:30 pm, Youth Committee Meeting</b>	<b>9:00 am, Quilters 5:00 pm, Safety &amp; Security Committee 6:30 pm, Council Meeting</b>	<b>1:30 pm, Esther Circle 4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation</b>	<b>1:30 pm, Hannah Circle 6:00 pm, Clorioso Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Adult Choir</b>	<b>1:00 pm, Game Day</b>	<b>9:00 am, Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal</b>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>9:30 am, Sunday School Christmas Program 9:30 am, Worship 6:30 pm, Blue Christmas</b>		<b>9:00 am, Quilters 9:00 am, Newsletter Volunteers</b>	<b>Office Closed Christmas Eve Worship: 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm, 11:00 pm</b>	<b>Office Closed 9:30 am, Christmas Day Worship</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>	
28	29	30	31			
<b>9:30 am, Lessons and Carols</b>		<b>9:00 am, Quilters</b>				

Charter Service- Monday's @ 7pm- Channel 986

HBC Service- Wednesday's @ 5 pm- Channel 20



259 W. Wabasha St. Winona, MN  
55987

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



---

## What's Coming Up

**Dec 6-** 7:00 pm, Messiah Sing-In

**Dec 13-** 9:00 am, WELCA Bake Sale, Craft Sale, & Lunch

11:00 am, Winona Brass Band

**Dec 14-** 9:30 am, WELCA Craft Sale

**Dec 20-** 9:00 am, Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal

**Dec 21-** 9:30 am, Sunday School Christmas Program

6:30 pm, Blue Christmas Service

**Dec 24-** 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm, 11:00 pm, Christmas Eve Worship

**Dec 25-** 9:30 am, Christmas Day Worship

**Dec 28-** 9:30 am, Lessons and Carols



507.452.5156

Contact Us

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



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

259 W. Wabasha St.  
Winona, MN 55987

