

CLC NEWSLETTER

March 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.



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTING PASTOR

Sisters and brothers and Christ,



REV.
MICHAEL
SHORT

I want to say thank you for the opportunity to travel to Tanzania on your behalf and on behalf of the SEMN Synod. Our partnership with the people of the Central Dioceses of Tanzania has been long and enduring. There are congregations in across our synod who have partnered with congregations, with dispensaries (small clinics) in Tanzania for years. Central has its own history with the people of Tanzania. Back in the 1990's, you, as a congregation, sent representatives and later hosted Bishop Gimbi from the Central Dioceses here in Winona. You also supported the work of Mary Ellen Kitundu and others as medical missionaries serving the people across the Central Dioceses. Now we have the opportunity to partner with the people of Immanuel Cathedral Church in Singida. I am talking with the pastors of Immanuel to help determine what this partnership might look like as we move forward.

We often point to the end of the Gospel of Matthew at what is referred to as the 'great commission' as a call to mission or vocation in ministry. There, Jesus tells the disciples and us to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Triune God. Sometimes people have heard this sending as being sent to the far reaches of the earth. We have that opportunity in our partnership with Immanuel Cathedral in Singida, Tanzania, yet our calling starts here at home so that we are ready to be sent.

The Sunday of my return was the annual meeting of Central where we discussed the future of our ministry in this place. I gave thanks for all the work of the staff, the many volunteers which has helped our ministry grow here at Central. We also discussed the needs of Central as we turn towards the future working to fulfill our mission here in this place even as we prepare to fulfill Christ's great commission.

My thanks to Steve Hacken, treasurer of the council, as he raised awareness of the need of your continued support of the mission and ministry of Central. In the past often we have received significant gifts from time to time over the year which as helped to sustain our work. Over the last couple of years those gifts have decreased. Some because of the death of a significant donor to Central. Others because of the additional costs of living we are experiencing in our every day lives. That additional cost of living hits the budget of the church as well.

One other possible reason for the reduction of giving towards the budget was the additional fundraising for special projects, like the purchase of the house last fall. If those gifts had been directed towards the budget, we would be in good shape financially. So I ask if you gave a gift towards a special project, would you consider making a similar gift towards the budget this year?

The other way the ministry is fulfilled in this place is by your ongoing support of your time. We have many committees each of them are looking for members. Most of them do not take much time, maybe a couple hours a month to attend a meeting. Others may take maybe an hour a week on a Sunday morning or a couple of hours to help with the FEAST or Confirmation on a Wednesday. But you would not need to serve each week. As such I will be raising up a need each month asking you to consider giving of your time in support of the mission of Central.

Please consider how you might continue to support the work of Central as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus not only in Winona but wherever we are sent in Christ's name.

Pr Michael



A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR



REV.
KRISTEN
MASSA



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I often, as one of your pastors, have my ear or finger on the pulse of the church and can make and see connections that other don't often have the opportunity to see. When topics come up again and again in various conversations, I take notice. This season, one of the things that I have continuously heard people say and talk about is prayer. I've heard people say "I want to pray better", or they want to pray more, or learn about the Lord's prayer deeper. It has been a pretty constant theme that I have seen running in the church, especially at Bible Studies.

Lent gives us the perfect opportunity to lean into prayer a little more as we are challenged, in this church season, to spend a little more time with God. We spend time aligning our hearts and minds with Gods as we all move towards the death and resurrection of Easter. Most of us "give up" things during lent, but what if we not only gave up things, but added in more spiritual practices- one of those being more prayer. Prayer can come in all sorts of shapes and forms. Prayer can be what we typically think of when we sit down and speak aloud to God. It can be scripted or spoken straight from the heart. But prayer can be so much more than that, it can be a sentence you meditate and create on, it can be a dance, or part of a walk. You can knit while you pray, praying for someone with each stitch. You can sing or play an instrument while you pray or, simply breathe and be.

Prayer is more than just what our physical body is doing while we pray, but it is also what we pray for. Most of the time when we think about prayer, we think about praying for something or someone. Do we also pray every time we are thankful for things, or want to praise God through our prayers? Prayer can be confessing, they can be adoring of God, they can be thankful, and of course, they can be a petition- praying for something or someone. When we don't know what to pray, we can pray the Lord's Prayer or simply pray to God "Stay with me".

However it is you pray, I pray that you find more time for your conversation with God this Lenten season. God loves you, God adores you, God wants to talk with you.

In Christ,
Pastor Kristen Massa

A MESSAGE FROM OUR WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS DIRECTOR



A. ERIC HEUKESHOVEN

*"Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another."
(Romans 12:13-16)*

HEALING THROUGH SONG

There is no question that our lives have been impacted by the turbulent events in our state over the past few months. Whether you have recently moved to our country or were born and raised here, we all are experiencing high levels of stress and anxiety.

A recent article in Chorus American spoke to the power of healing through a "Community Sing," "In recent years, organized singing events that encourage community spirit have been gaining in popularity. Betty Tisel, who formed the nonprofit Minnesota Community Sings and studies the history of community singing in the state, sees group singing as an expression of community activism. As she told Jim Walsh of [MinnPost](#), "If we're going to draw others into the work of building a just, sustainable world, that world has got to look like a place we would also like to live in. We need joyful, local, participatory culture."

On Wednesday March 4, 2026, at 7 pm (following the Holden Evening Prayer service), Central will host a Community Sing led by local musician and music educator, Dr. Colleen Chester. The concept is simply to facilitate a space for people to gather as a community, sing, feel joy and togetherness, and hold space for one another as we move through this time.

In his blog, folk singer Matt Watroba explains what a Community Sing is all about: "Anyone who has experienced community singing will quickly tell you the personal benefits they experienced from participating. As our culture focuses more and more on electronic screens and impersonal forms of communication—like texting and tweeting—the need for real, person to person contact grows stronger. Singing is the perfect excuse to lay down the tablet, laptop, or remote control in order to get back in touch with the healing and nurturing aspects of music and community."

It's no secret that we Lutherans *love* to sing! At this event, there won't be any sheet music, and no one will judge your vocal abilities! The familiar songs will range from traditional folk songs to contemporary favorites. All the songs will be taught by rote. Who knows you may even learn a new favorite!

Perhaps singer-songwriter Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul, and Mary fame best describes the power of a Community Sing: "When people sing together, community is created. Together we rejoice, we celebrate, we mourn and we comfort each other. Through music, we reach each other's hearts and souls. Music allows us to find a connection."

Please join with members of the Winona area community for this time of healing through song. The event is and open to all.

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

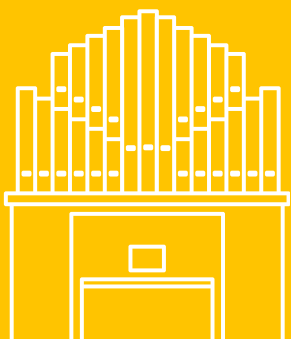
Blessings, always.

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



When people sing together, community is created. Together we rejoice, we celebrate, we mourn and we comfort each other. Through music, we reach each others hearts and souls. Music allows us to find a connection.

— Peter Yarrow —





Central Lutheran Church
Child Care Center

March Center News

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

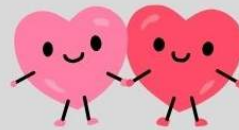
The Numbers

Central Lutheran Church Child Care Center is currently serving 41 families. We have 13 infant, 16 toddler, & 26 preschool children at the center. We have 40 staff who work at the center supporting the needs of the children. Those needs require 130 hours daily to have the center running at the successful rate it is!



CLC CCC is now Parent Aware Rated!

We have received the highest rating possible of 4 Stars! This allows the Center to receive higher grant rates and support families in new ways (including offering MN Early Childhood Learning Scholarships to those who qualify!)



Valentine's Day Family Event



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

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

CLC EVENTS



To our community of women at Central Lutheran

At the SEMN Synod convention last September, Bishop Regina Hassanally identified 5 C's as the spirit of WELCA and a way to act boldly in our faith in Jesus Christ: Connection, Creativity, Compliments, Celebration and Communication.

There is a place for all in the WELCA community - check it out. Our next leadership board meeting is Monday, March 2, at 9:30 am in Grace Hall. Please consider attending, as we are hoping to gather new ideas for fellowship and service. We can talk about what worked in the past as well!

Thank you to the leadership team for bringing forward the importance of heart health this past month. Simple tips: eat healthy, stay physically active, manage blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar, avoid tobacco and limit alcohol, sleep and manage stress, become aware of the warning signs of a heart attack. Let's take care of ourselves as we are part of God's creation.

WELCA Epiphany Tea

On January 4th, WELCA hosted an Epiphany Tea. Many enjoyed the music, food, and atmosphere. Thank you to Erich and Janet Heukeshoven for the lovely music and to Jan Blomsness, Haley Martin, Gayle Garrity, Gloria Siewert, and Judy Davis for the beautiful decorations. WELCA could not have hosted such a lovely tea without all who helped with set up, donations of goodies, food preparation, and clean up. A special thank you to Julie, Elsa and Clara Heinrichs, for volunteering to hand wash the dishes! We're looking forward to the next Epiphany tea.



Winona Immigration Network Update

The WIN committee would like to thank the many who have generously contributed to our efforts. We continue to be proactive in making sure that we have the necessary funds to help our families in the event of unexpected financial needs. In December the WIN families and the WIN Committee had a Christmas party. We all enjoyed eating a meal and playing games together at Central. Thank you to all who brought food for the meal, and donated toward prizes and gifts.

We continue to monitor the activities of ICE and are helping our families in adjusting to the various situations that are going on throughout the state. They remain focused on their jobs and their families. Watch for information about a pie social fundraiser in early spring. We are also looking forward to our salad luncheon in early fall. Know that your ongoing prayers, generosity and involvement with our families is greatly appreciated.

Prayer Shawls

"When you give a prayer shawl you are giving the warmth of God's love. Prayer shawls are made with care and love. If you are interested in giving a prayer shawl contact the church office 507-452-5156 or Sheri Maier 507-458-5574."

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:

March 13: Theo of Golden by Allen Levi: A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, Theo of Golden is a beautifully crafted novel about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the invisible threads of kindness that bind us to one another.

April 10: Culpability by Bruce Holsinger

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

June 12: The Satisfaction Cafe by Kathy Wang

FEAST

The FEAST continues to serve warm winter meals and fellowship Wednesday evenings. Thanks so much to the people that responded to the plea for desserts. While it seems small, it is an important role and great help for the FEAST committee. We are grateful.

Please join us for some wonderful meals in March, and if you see any of our amazing cooks, thank them for all they do.

March 4: CLC Church Council-Baked potato bar

March 11: Jay Dureske- Chicken gumbo

March 18: Joe Palubicki- Irish stew and cabbage salad

March 25: Peggy Twait and Grace Schueler-Chicken Supreme hot dish, glazed carrots, beets

Worship Volunteers - Ushers

Ushers come early to greet people as they arrive, hand out bulletins, and offer guidance. During worship, they count those in attendance, receive the offering, release people during Holy Communion, and assist with straightening up after worship. There is a Lead Usher with additional responsibilities, and is also there to help guide ushers. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up on our website or speak to one of the pastors, they can answer any questions.



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 you check, or mail it to the church office. Checks payable to *Central Lutheran Church (CLC)* with *Easter Flowers* in the memo line. Donors and dedications received by Sunday, March 29th, will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

\$ _____ Amount

PRINT YOUR NAME

Print Dedication (IN HONOR OF/MEMORY OF)

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

MARCH 28

9-11AM

All current 5th graders, and those interested in receiving communion for the first time, are invited to attend class in preparation for first communion on Maundy Thursday (April 2)

We will be learn about communion, bake communion bread together, and create our first communion cups!



SPRING HANGING BASKET SALES

\$40 FOR 10" HANGING BASKET

BEGONIA
GERANIUM
PETUNIA

ORDERS DUE APRIL 1

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT YOUTH MISSION TRIP



EASTER EGG SCAVENGER HUNT

Happy

Easter

JOIN US FOR A SCAVENGER HUNT THROUGH THE CHURCH WHILE WE SEARCH FOR EGGS AND LEARN ABOUT GODS LOVE!

SATURDAY MARCH 28

11:30-1:00PM

Central Lutheran Church, Winona

SNACKS, GAMES, CRAFTS AND EGGS!

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: DECEMBER 16, 2025

PRESENT: Pastor Short, Pastor Massa, Steve Everson, Tim Laib, Steve Hacken, Tammy Swenson Lepper, Myrna Olson

ABSENT: Scott Mlynczak, Julie Palubicki

PAST PRESIDENT

Scott Mlynczak

Steve Everson called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. and opened with devotions.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was requested to add Safety and Security to the agenda. With this addition, Steve Hacken moved, Tim seconded, carried to approve the agenda.

PRESIDENT

Steve Everson

COMMITTEE REPORT – Youth Committee report, moved to next meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steve H. moved, Tammy seconded, carried to approve the November 18, 2025, minutes.

PRESIDENT

ELECT

Tim Laib

TREASURER'S REPORT Steve Hacken presented the following Treasurer's Report.

Review of Constitution and By-Laws

The review of the Constitution continues.

TREASURER

Steve Hacken

Purchase of House

Pastor Short informed the Council that the closing for the house at 260 West Sanborn will be on December 27, 2025, at a price of \$230,000.

November Treasurer's Report

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

November Income: \$49,487

November Offering: \$48,410

Year to Date Income: \$464,884

November Expenses: \$43,153

Year to Date Expenses: \$622,474

November Balance: \$5,934

Year to Date Balance: (\$157,590)

SECRETARY

Myrna Olson

Financial Notes:

- November income was over \$17,000 less than last year
- Annual deficit is a little less than 2024
- Income amounts do not include donations for the house purchase

AT LARGE

Tammy
Swenson-
Lepper

Following discussion, Tim moved, Tammy seconded, carried to approve the November Treasurer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Child Care Center Expansion

Meetings continue with Faith Lutheran regarding the expansion of the Child Care Center at Faith.

Review of Constitution and By-Laws

The review of the Constitution continues.

Purchase of House

Pastor Short informed the Council that the closing for the house at 260 West Sanborn -through will be on December 29, 2025. A walk-through of the house was completed this week, new locks will be installed on the doors. Lutheran Campus Center will be using the house until their new building is completed. LCC will pay \$500 a month rent. An open house for the congregation to view the building will be between services on Sunday, January 4, 2026. There will be a planning committee created for Central Block.



COUNCIL REPORT CONTINUED

CHURCH COUNCIL

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is meeting in order to provide a list of nominations for open positions at the 2026 Annual Meeting in February for congregation consideration and approval.

PAST PRESIDENT

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 11:30 A.M.

Scott Mlynczak

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Discussion was held on the safety of everyone using Central Lutheran Church. The building use form is being modified.

PRESIDENT

Tim moved, Steve Hacken second, carried to approve the following statement to be included in the new policy:

Steve Everson

“The Church Council would like to remind everyone of Central Lutheran’s locked door policy. During working hours Monday through Friday, the building is locked for the safety of the staff, children at the CLC Child Care Center, members, and visitors. When groups use the building in the evening or on weekends, the Church Council asks that all groups keep doors locked at all times unless they have someone monitoring each unlocked door during their event or meeting.”

PRESIDENT ELECT

Tim Laib

This is supported by the Safety and Security Committee with the goal to keep people safe.

TREASURER

PASTORS:

Steve Hacken

- Weekly staff meetings
- Planning for organ renewal fundraising
- Working on review of Constitution and By-Laws and CLC policies
- Working on purchase of house and fundraising
- Weekly Confirmation
- Wonders of Worship
- Picture directory still in process
- Carpet is going to be installed in Grace Hall between Christmas and New Year’s
- Add new Minnesota leave policy
- Youth retreat on Saturday, February 28
- Council as Leaders in Austin on March 14
- Synod Assembly in Mankato on May 2
- CPR – AED training on January 8

SECRETARY

Myrna Olson

AT LARGE

Tammy Swenson-Lepper

STAFF:

- The annual Messiah Sing-In was on December 6 with attendance of approximately 275
- The Child Care Center has 50 children enrolled serving 40 families

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- WELCA bake sale and Brass Band on December 13
- Worship and Welcome
- CLC Socials – monthly game days
- Fundraising in February 2026 will focus on organ fundraising and the sanctuary updates will be put on hold due to the fundraising for the purchase of the house

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

Tammy will have devotions at the next meeting.

Steve Everson thanked Myrna Olson and Scott Mlynczak for their service on the Council as this is their last meeting.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M. Next meeting will be February 17, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.

Myrna Olson, Secretary



FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2026
Total Income: \$35,499.75
Total Expenses: \$73,036.69



Offering Goal: \$33,802.00

Thank you for your support of Central's Ministry

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Given by Helen Johnson, Hayley Martin, Kevin Martin, David Matzke, Sandrea Matzke, Lori Ness, Paul Ness, Arlan Runningen, Eloyce Schindler, Charlene Staff, Keith Staff, Del Twidt, Julia Wolf, Vicki Boysen, Mark Boysen, Marvin Wolfmeyer

Gifts in memory or honor of someone **Memorials January 15, 2026 through February 16, 2026**

In Memory of Conway Elton

Given by Ellyn English, Brad Turner, Anne Colombo, Mark Houge, Charles & Barbara Bentley, Elaine & David Wiebke

Honor of Don Klagge's 88th Birthday

Given by Joan Klagge

In Memory of Willie Gray Turberville "NaNa"

Given by Judy Benson

Designated Gifts in January

Building Maintenance Fund	\$498.00
WVS Food Shelf	\$304.00
Youth Fund	\$25.00
Organ Fund	\$1,665.00
FEAST	\$765.55
Youth Mission	\$493.55

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30 am, worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, worship	9:30 am, WELCA 6:15 pm, WIN	9:00 am, Quilters	4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:00 pm, Lenten Service 6:30 pm, Confirmation 7:00 pm, Winona Community Sing	6:00 pm, Clorioso Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Adult Choir Rehearsal		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Saving Time 8:30 am, Worship 10:30 am, Worship		9:00 am, Quilters 5:00 pm, Property Committee	4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:00 pm, Lenten Service 6:30 pm, Confirmation	10:00 am, Welcome & Worship 6:00 pm, Clorioso Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Adult Choir Rehearsal	10:00 am, CLC Book Group	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:30 am, Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, Worship	9:00 am, Social Concerns 5:30 pm, Youth Committee	Newsletter Articles Due 9:00 am, Quilters 5:00 pm, Safety & Security 6:30 pm, Council Meeting	1:30 pm, Esther Circle 4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:00 pm, Lenten Service 6:30 pm, Confirmation	1:30 pm, Hannah Circle 6:00 pm, Clorioso Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Adult Choir Rehearsal	1:00 pm, Game Day	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30 am, Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, Worship		9:00 am, Quilters	4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:00 pm, Lenten Service 6:30 pm, Confirmation	9:30 am, Newsletter Volunteers 6:00 pm, Clorioso Bells @ Sugarloaf St. Living 7:00 pm, Adult Choir Rehearsal		9:00 am, 5 th Grade First Communion
29	30	31				
Easter Flower Slips Due 8:30 am, Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School - Family Sunday 10:30 am, Worship- Children Sing		9:00 am, Quilters				

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

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



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55987

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What's Coming Up

Mar 4 - 7:00 pm, Winona Community Sing

Mar 8 - Daylight Saving Time

Mar 17- Newsletter Articles Due

Mar 28- 9:00 am, 5th Grade First Communion Class

11:30 am, Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt

Mar 29 - Easter Flower Slips Due



507.452.5156

Contact Us

centrallutheranchurch.org



office@centrallutheranchurch.org

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Winona, MN 55987

