

CLC NEWSLETTER

January 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 in Christ,

A couple of weeks ago, as I sat in my sunroom watching the 8+ inches of snow fall on a Saturday, I felt relaxed. While there were many things on my 'to-do' list, I was forced to abandon my plans as the weather had its own plan for my day. The relaxed feeling only lasted as long as the cup of hot coffee I was enjoying. After that, there was snow to shovel, Christmas trees to decorate, along with other decorations to dig out of boxes to adorn our house for the season.

That day was both a blessing for Debbie and I enjoyed the opportunity to spend the day decorating and enjoying being inside together. Yet it was also a bit of a curse, because there were so many other end-of-the-year activities and responsibilities on my 'to-do' list to take care of. At the end of the day I was tired from the physical activity of decorating inside, intermingled with going outside to shovel the snow and take Annie for a walk in the winter wonderland.

Now like many of you I just feel tired and behind with a number of projects being worked on without being able to fully finish any one of them. Since then, I have completed some of those outstanding tasks, but others have started and are ongoing. I am not telling you this to make you feel sorry for your pastor or his busy schedule. I only want to acknowledge that you are not alone in your busy schedules. Like you, maybe I am just more aware at this time of the year of how busy our schedule can be and how our busyness seems to detract from our hopes and dreams for the season.

As such, I realized I need to take a moment to just be. I need to take time to just breath so I can give thanks and have an opportunity to feel the blessing of the season. So here in the midst of this busy season, I pray you might find a way to set aside everything for just a minute and sit quietly at some point in the day to give thanks. After all we have much to give thanks for, thankful for a community that supports and cares about us, thankful for family and friends who love us and even more so to our God who came to us.

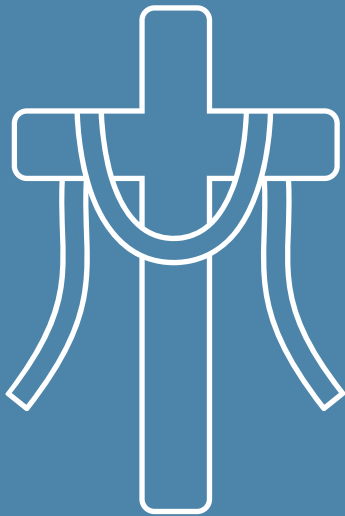
So I offer you this blessing (which I often use as the benediction on Christmas Eve) as we await, then celebrate the gift which this season brings us.

*May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
The obedience of Joseph,
The joy of the angels,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The determination of the magi,
The peace of the Christ Child.
And may Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. Amen.*

Peace, Pr Michael



REV.
MICHAEL
SHORT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ-

Happy New Year! If you are anything like I am, by the time this letter goes to print, I will probably be exhausted, yet filled, as another Christmas season comes to an end. The new year brings an end to not only 2025, but also the season of “Hallo-thanks-mas”, that is Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. A time when a lot of us may feel like we are hopping from one holiday to the next while saying “but wasn’t it just September like yesterday?”. We get caught up in the whirlwind of it all and when it’s done, we feel like we’ve just ran a marathon.

The goodness that is the last three months of the year is that we are often times with others, seeing people and building relationships. It may be a lot of things going on, but there is also so much opportunity to connect with one another. We may see neighbors we hadn’t seen in a while as kids trick-or-treat. I know that during Thanksgiving, I had the opportunity to connect with a few of my siblings and their families, whom I hadn’t seen since the previous Christmas. Beyond that, December brings so many ways for us to connect as well- not only with our families, but with our church family as well. We had concerts, bake sales, confirmation caroling and a slew of opportunities for us to gather and just be with each other.

It may seem that now that the holidays are over, there is less of a chance to connect. While there are less “events”, the hospitality, friendliness and goodness of gathering still remains. We are created to be in relationship with each other. We commune together at the table of the altar, we echo prayers as one body, even Adam was given a partner when God declare that it is “not good that the man should be alone” in Genesis 2:18. We are made for community, as community invites us to talk with each other, share burdens and joys and collectively walk in and encourage each other in our faith.

As this new year starts, I pray that we keep the connections that we have made over the last month, that we continue to feed our relationships. Our mission at Central is “Gathered in the love of Christ, we connect, serve and grow”. Notice that in that, coming together is mentioned twice. We gather together in and because of the love of Christ, and in that we find connection and love with each other. There are many ways in which to get connected here at Central from the Feast meal to serving to quilters and beyond. If you don’t feel connected or have questions about where you might fit into God’s beautiful tapestry here, please reach out so we can find a place for you too. You belong here.

In Christ Pastor Kristen Massa



REV.
KRISTEN
MASSA



A MESSAGE FROM OUR WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS DIRECTOR



A. ERIC HEUKESHOVEN

2025 – A Year of Arts at Central

From *The Queen of the Library* to honoring J.S. Bach, Central celebrated a vibrant year of music & theater!

March – Flauto Dolce



April – Concert for Ukraine



WSU Choirs



May – Rochester Area Handbells



August – Sugarloaf Theatre presents *The Queen of the Library*



September – Central Celebrates Bach! – 3 Organ Recitals, Bach at Leipzig, Bach Society of MN



November – Winona Community Chorale



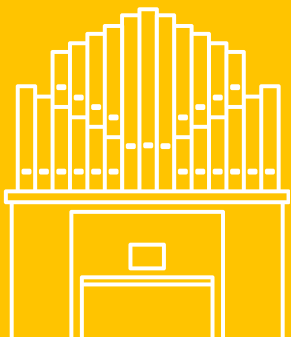
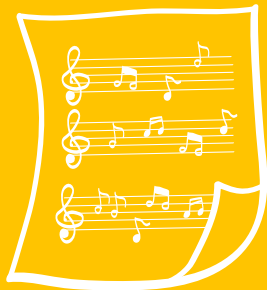
Charles Lazarus & David Cherwein – *American Nomad*



December – *Messiah* Sing-In



Winona HIMS





Central Lutheran Church
Child Care Center

January Center News

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

Happy New Year!

We are looking forward to continuing to serve our youngest members of the church and community here at CLC CCC in 2026. Our center runs on Faith, Love, and Connections and we look forward to continuing to support young families through 2026. We hope everyone has a blessed new year!



Butter Braid Sales

The Center will be selling Butter Braids again this year January 5-21. This yearly event helps raise money to add new experiences to each age range and classroom. We are hoping to be able to do some room updates this year in every classroom. If you would like to purchase any there is an order form by the front office or you can email Jackie childcarecenter@centrallutheran church.org to place an order.



10 Days of Giving

Our families came together to participate in Merchant Bank's 10 Days of Giving in early December and our bucket was overflowing after 10 days of collecting! We love being able to support our community and teaching our littles the importance of caring for our community!



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

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

All are invited to the WELCA Candlelight Epiphany Tea on Sunday, January 4th from 4:00-5:30 PM in Grace Hall. Bring your family, friends, and children. We are keeping it simple with church china, candlelight, soft music, and time to chat. There will be lots of tasty treats, both savory and sweet. Eric and Janet Heukeshoven will provide beautiful music while you relax and visit in the glow of candlelight. There will be no cost for admission to the tea. This is WELCA's gift of appreciation to our congregation for all your support of our WELCA projects. The doors will open at 3:30 PM. There will be open seating. Reservations are only needed if you are bringing guests and would like to reserve a table for six to eight people. Please call Denise Bernatz at 507-459-2969 for reservations, or if you would like to help with preparations for this event.

Heartfelt Thank You!

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who attended the WELCA Bake Sale, Quilter's Craft Sale, Winona Brass Band concert, and Lunch. We could not have held these events without your donations of Christmas treats and craft items. We appreciate the time you spent on your creations. A big thank you to those who came to the church to make rosettes and krumkake. We hope you enjoyed the Bake Sale, Quilter's Craft Sale, Winona Bass Band concert, and the lunch. A good time was had by all and the proceeds will benefit many worthwhile causes!

WELCA Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for WELCA's annual meeting in between church services on Sunday, January 25th. All confirmed women of Central are invited and encouraged to grab your coffee and attend this once a year meeting. We'll hear about various initiatives and groups (circles, Quilters, WIN, Bake Sale, Craft Sale, etc.) regarding our 2025 accomplishments and make plans for the coming year. We'll be electing a new slate of officers as part of the annual meeting. Come to church early or stay late to learn more about our WELCA activities. Any questions? Email Janet Heukeshoven at jheukesh@smumn.edu or call 507-429-5148.

Central Lutheran Book Group

The book group will meet on Thursday, January 8th. We will discuss format, meeting dates and time, possible books and prepare for a new year of interesting discussions and ideas. Please consider joining us on the 8th and in the new year. If you have questions please contact Dennis Glawe or Gayle Garrity.

Central Lutheran Blood Drive

Making New Year Resolutions? Might becoming a regular donor to the Red Cross be an easy resolution to make? There is a severe shortage of all blood products in our country. Hospital demand outpaces donations. Donating blood will make a big difference in the lives of others. If you are healthy and able to donate blood, please consider doing so. An appointment is strongly encouraged. You can schedule an appointment for January 8th or another date by contacting the Red Cross. Schedule online at www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Hosted by Central Lutheran Social Concerns Committee and the Kiwanis Sunrises Club



FEAST

Welcome to the New Year! The FEAST has had a great fall season of serving warm meals to the Central family and the community at larger. The FEAST community will be missing one member moving forward as we say a grateful farewell to long-time volunteer, Melissa Fogarty. Melissa has volunteered for the FEAST as a cook, server, volunteer and coordinator. She and her husband are relocating, and we will feel her absence each week. We will miss Melissa's dedication, creativity, and her great sense of humor. Best wishes to Melissa.

The FEAST is in need of dessert bakers. You can bake at home, share the baking with a friend, and drop desserts off at the church at your convenience. Any type of bars, cookies, or cakes are acceptable. If you are able to contribute in some way, please call or text Pam Davick at 507-459-2806.

We are in the season of weather cancellations. If there is no school, there will be no FEAST. Please listen to the local radio, or check media cancellations for the status of the FEAST when there is bad weather.

Please check the Central Currents for cooks and menus. We look forward to seeing you at the FEAST!

CLC HAPPENINGS

WIN

On behalf of the WIN committee, we would like to thank the many members of Central who have supported our work and offered their time and talents. As the weeks and months continue and we find different needs, there are always many who have helped sustain our efforts with our now four families, which include eight adults and four children. We thank you and want you to know how much we appreciate your support with our families. If you would like to continue to support us in this endeavor or would like to offer a monetary donation, you may do so by sending it to Central Lutheran and placing it in the WIN mailbox in the office. Another ambitious endeavor of the WIN committee in December was preparing a Christmas dinner that was sponsored by the committee, in which members of the committee provided a dinner and an afternoon of games and activities for our families. This gave the committee the chance to share and hear Christmas traditions and get to know our families even better.

-Judy Davis and Denise Bernatz Co-Charis of WIN

Sharing the Joys of Christmas

It has become a tradition that Central Lutheran reaches out to homebound members at Christmas. Gift Bags filled with holiday sweets, small gifts and handmade cards were delivered in early December. The Social Concerns Committee plans for and delivers the bags. They are assisted by the Confirmation Class and the 5th and 6th grade Sunday School class in creating tree ornaments, making cards, decorating cookies, and making rosettes. These bags bring joy to the recipients and those who worked to create and deliver the bags.



Thank you!

On behalf of the staff at Central THANK YOU! We give thanks to our many volunteers who work behind the scenes to keep the ministries happening here at Central. Especially to those who help ensure Sunday morning worship looks effortless yet so meaningful to all who attend. It is you, the volunteers who make help the church in its mission and vision. We are grateful beyond words for all the committees and to each of you who give your time, energy, talents, and resources to make Central the welcoming space for members and the community.

A special THANK YOU to all who assist with worship- ushers, lectors, assisting ministers, communion assistants, altar guild, acolytes, choir and bell choir members. We give thanks to Carol Kramer and Laurie Laib who help coordinate all those volunteers. We give thanks to all of our Sunday School teachers and leaders. To Eugenia Moe and the many many other groups who help with hospitality each week. We give thanks to Peggy Twait for her help in the office when Shayna is out, among her other activities at Central. We are thankful for Karen Jacobson for her vision and decorating abilities along with her whole crew who help set the tone for worship with color and inspiration.

FINANCIAL REPORT

November 2025

Total Income: \$49,086.70

Total Expenses: \$43,152.58

Offering Goal: \$56,544.00



Thank you for your support of Central's Ministry

Gifts in memory or honor of someone **Memorials November 18, 2025 through December 7, 2025**

In Honor of Marie Holmquist's Birthday
Given by Mike & Denise Bernatz

In Honor of Peggy Twait's Birthday
Given by Joni Klagge

In Honor of Judy Davis' Birthday
Given by Joni Klagge

Designated Gifts in November

Building Maintenance Fund	\$438.00
WVS Food Shelf	\$591.00
Building Purchase	\$66,000.00
Youth Fund	\$20.00
Organ Fund	\$976.00
FEAST	\$3990.00
Memorials	\$50.00
Lutheran Campus Center	\$5.00
Youth Mission	\$3,987.00
WELCA	\$40.00

Annual Meeting

Please plan to join us for our **Annual Meeting on February 8, held between services in Grace Hall**. This meeting is an important time to review the past year and share updates about the ongoing work and direction of Central.

If you are submitting a report, please be sure to send it to Shayna by January 8, so all materials can be prepared. We appreciate your help and look forward to seeing you there.

New for 2026: Building Use Form

Groups, both those from within Central Lutheran and external groups, should submit a new building use form for 2026 at least two weeks prior to their first event or meeting. If groups meet monthly, they only need to fill out one form for the year. As a reminder, building use is prioritized based on the date you submit the building use form. You can get a building use form from Shayna; once she has your form, she will add your event or meeting to the church calendar.

If your group or event meets irregularly, we ask that you submit your building use form two weeks before your event; guidelines for locking up the building and returning the key fobs are on the checklist attached to the key fob you receive prior to your event.

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.

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30 am, Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School-Family Sunday 10:30 am, Worship 4:00 pm, Epiphany Tea	9:30 am, WELCA 6:15 pm, WIN	9:00 am- Quilters	4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation	Annual Reports Due 9:00 am, Blood Drive 10:00 am, Welcome & Worship 11:00 am, CLC Book Group 5:30 pm, CPR/AED Training 6:00 pm, Cloriso Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Adult Choir Rehearsal		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30 am, Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, Worship		9:00 am, Quilters 5:00 pm, Property Committee	4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation	1:30 pm, Hannah Circle	1:00 pm, Game Day	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30 am, worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, Worship	9:00 am, Social Concerns 5:30 pm, Youth Committee Meeting	Newsletter Articles Due 9:00 am, Quilters 6:30 pm, Council Meeting	1:30 pm, Esther Circle 4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation			7:00 pm, John Paulson Big Band Concert
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30 am, worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 9:30 am, WELCA Annual Meeting 10:30 am, worship		9:00 am, Quilters	4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation	Charter Service- Monday's @ 7pm- Channel 986		



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55987

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What's Coming Up

- Jan 1-** Office Closed
- Jan 4-** 4:00 pm, Epiphany Tea
- Jan 8-** Annual Reports Due
 - 9:00 am, Blood Drive
 - 5:30 pm, CPR/AED Training - Everyone's welcome!
- Jan 16-** 1:00 pm, Game Day
- Jan 20-** Newsletter Articles Due
- Jan 24-** 7:00 pm, John Paulson Big Band Concert
- Jan 25-** 9:30 am, WELCA Annual Meeting



507.452.5156

Contact Us

centrallutheranchurch.org



office@centrallutheranchurch.org

259 W. Wabasha St.
Winona, MN 55987

