

CLC NEWSLETTER

September 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.



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTING PASTOR

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



REV.
MICHAEL
SHORT

A month ago at the council meeting during a discussion of Central's mission statement we added a word – GROW. So the mission statement now states: 'Gathered in the name of Christ, we connect, grow, and serve. While we can point to the many ways in which we connect and serve, determining growth is harder to quantify. There are times when we can see or measure growth. Many families have marks on the door frame of their home where they measure the growth of a child. But to measure growth in your faith life is difficult. Is it measured by how often you read the scriptures, how much time you spend in prayer, in the ways you serve others in the community or how often you attend worship? The quick answer would be yes to all those actions. Often as someone grows in their faith so does their actions as they live out their faith in daily life.

As a pastor in the church, part of my calling is to teach and to preach as a means to help members grow in their life and in their faith. Growth happens in various ways. Growth happens as members come to understand how God is calling them and sending them to be witnesses in the world. Sometimes that is a very public witness becoming a leader in the church, assisting in worship or becoming a leader of a committee. Other times your witness is unseen in baking bread or washing glasses or making quilts to be sent to LWR.

In addition, Central offers opportunities for you to grow in your faith and in your understanding of God. For our youth we offer Sunday School and Confirmation classes. For adults we will be offering education opportunities for you to continue to explore your life of faith. This fall we are starting out with a conversation on the life and faith of Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was a pastor and teacher in Germany during WWII. More information can be found in this newsletter.

Just as important as growing in your faith is growing in the financial support of the ministries of Central. With the arrival of the fall season comes a time for stewardship within the church, Central is no different. In the coming weeks you will be receiving information reminding you of the needs of the church asking you to consider growing in your financial support of the ministries. Included in the newsletter is an insert entitled 'Central stories'. You can read again words from our members about why Central is important to them in their life and in their faith. You can see examples of faith being put into action.

Growing in our life and in our faith becomes central to who we are as people and as followers of Jesus. Often Jesus struggled with the disciples when they responded to him in ways that showed they were hearing him, just not fully understanding the depth of what he was teaching them. Paul in his writings used the example of the early churches being like children even as he encouraged them to continue to grow in their understanding of Jesus. We too are on that journey, continually growing, continually seeking deeper meaning so we might live more faithfully in the world.

Please consider joining us in September for our conversation about life and faith. Central continues to offer opportunities for you and your family to fulfill your baptismal promises and to grow in your faith, to become the one whom God created you to be.

Peace, Pr Michael

contact: 507.452.5156 or 608.330.0715

prshort@centrallutheranchurch.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR



REV.
KRISTEN
MASSA



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Things don't always happen like we want them to. A lesson that I am sure most, if not all of us know too well. We get sick on vacation, lose our keys when we are running late, or if you are like the car I just saw drive past while sitting having coffee at a local coffee shop, you blow a tire on the way to work. Of course, most of these mentioned are minor. We have our big life changes too. We lose people we love too soon; relationships fall apart, money runs out. Whatever it is, we all understand that life doesn't always turn out how we want.

It's in the midst of those events that we often turn to God and ask, "Why?". Why did it happen, why didn't it work out? It's a question that we hear often as pastors- why? The answer- sometimes we just don't know. There are reasons beyond our comprehension, there will be reasons to which we will never fully understand. Sometimes things happen not because you are being punished, but just because. A nail left in the road, dropped by a contractor that leaves you with a flat tire is not God punishing you.

Plain and simple- we will never know all the whys in life- this is all part of the mystery of faith. We may never know the whys or understand why things don't work out, but we can be assured that no matter what God loves us. Jesus loves us and took it upon himself that bear the wrath of God so that we don't suffer from God's punishment anymore. With that, we are beloved children of God- loved, adored and supported. Sometimes in the midst of grief and pain, the most natural things is to ask why God. But, what if instead of asking why, we ask God to come to us. "Come Lord Jesus," simply sit with me, be with me in the midst. Amen.

In Christ, always,

Pastor Kristen Massa

Pastors Note- There are so many GREAT things that are kicking off this month with our youth. Sunday school, confirmation, weekend trips, etc. As an intergenerational church, we are always looking for mentors and guides for our children and youth (no experience necessary!). Please consider giving your time and love to our younger members this school year and reach out to me to see how you can get connected!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS DIRECTOR

"Let your heart therefore be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day."

(1 Kings 8:61)

LUTHER & BACH



B-A-C-H. These four letters changed the course of music history. A hundred volumes or more could have been written on the famously musical Bach family. Never has there been or likely ever will be a performing or composing talent such as the notable son who devoted nearly his entire professional musical life to service in the Lutheran Church.

The life and work of Bach is sandwiched between the Reformation and the current day. If you determine the years spanning from the birth of Martin Luther (1483) to the death of Bach (1750) and the death of Bach to the current year, an equal split of 275 years is discovered. This positioning allowed for Luther to have a profound impact on Bach and for the influence of Bach to continue to carry forward beyond our present day.

Bach's connection and admiration of Luther stems from his childhood. Born in 1685 in Eisenach in Thuringia, Bach spent three years at the Latin school that Luther had attended two centuries prior. Due in part to Luther's efforts, Bach was able to experience firsthand the fruits of Luther's emphasis on the importance of a sound Christian education and sturdy theological foundation. Bach was known to have several theological books and the Luther translation of the Bible that he owned contains many notes as written by the musical genius himself.

Although also a trained violinist and singer, Bach focused his professional career on playing the organ. He served as organist at Arnstadt (1703-7) and Mühlhausen (1707-8); as court organist and later concertmaster in the chapel of the duke of Weimar (1708-17); and as music director at the court of a prince in Cöthen (1717-23). The vast majority of his sacred and choral compositional output, including his well-known Cantatas and Passions, came during the years he served in Leipzig at the churches of St. Nicholas and St. Thomas (1723-50). (Thanks to Jonathan A. Swett, former Kantor of Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Hartland, Michigan, for his excellent article at Lutheranreformation.org.)

Throughout September we will rejoice in the contributions and influence of J.S. Bach, in the way that Luther and Bach would have you rejoice, giving all glory to God for His many blessings!

FREE ORGAN RECITALS – NOON to 1 PM

- Sept. 3 - Matt Gender - Zumbro Lutheran Church of Rochester
- Sept. 10 - John Stender - First Presbyterian of Rochester
- Sept. 17 - Daniel Lewis - St. Martin's Lutheran Church of Winona

BACH AT LEIPZIG – SEPTEMBER 13 – 7 PM

Hilarious play – 6 organists try to keep Papa Bach from becoming Kapellmeister at Leipzig's Thomaskirche. Adults \$10, \$5 Students/Seniors or pay what you can!

BACH SOCIETY OF MN – SEPTEMBER 19 – 7 PM

Annual return of this outstanding chamber ensemble. "Vivaldi on Fire" features beguiling music by the "Red Priest". General admission \$25, Students only \$5!

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

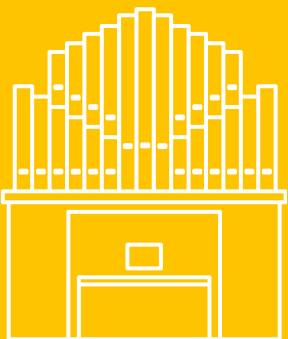
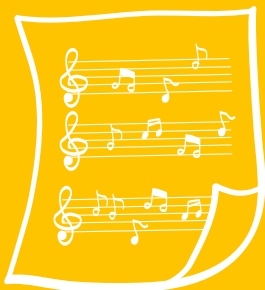
Blessings, always.

--

A. Eric Heukeshoven, M.S.



A. ERIC HEUKESHOVEN





Central Lutheran Church
Child Care Center

September Center News

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

Central Lutheran Church Child Care Center
Our Mission: Providing the building blocks of child care by creating learning opportunities infused with faith while supporting the whole family

4K OPEN ENROLLMENT

- ✓ Developmentally appropriate Creative Curriculum implementation, infused with faith-based learning
- ✓ Outdoor play
- ✓ Social Emotional Individualized Development Support

ENROLL TODAY

MORE INFORMATION
childcarecenter@centrallutheranchurch.org

Welcome Back, Students!

Central Lutheran Church Child Care Center welcomed back our college students at the end of August. We have 25 college students among our staff who help care for the 51 children in our care. We love being able to give these students the opportunity to gain experience with children!



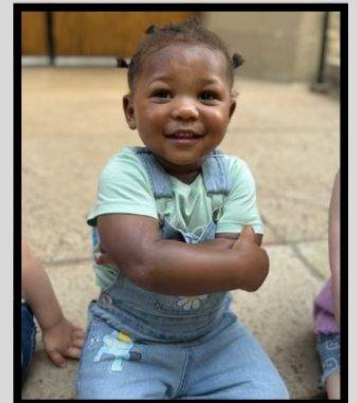
Upcoming Events!

Mark your calendars for some fun events coming soon!

October 25: Trunk or Treat

November 1: Jack Zinghopper Concert

November 9-16: CLC CCC Book Fair



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

Page 5 Together we are better!

Questions, please contact us...

childcarecenter@centrallutheranchurch.org

“The LCC: a home where souls feel their worth”

At a recent Lutheran Campus Center Board meeting, as we discussed the possibilities of rebuilding after the devastating fire, I felt compelled to read from Isaiah 43 and offer a prayer. Centered in the promises delivered to God’s people in exile long ago, we heard them anew for our ministry in Winona. The assurance in Isaiah 43 is Homecoming, though not just any homecoming; it is returning to our home restored.

Home is the word students and alums use to describe the LCC. In my twelve years serving the LCC as Pastor, I cannot tell you how many times I have heard that sentiment. One of the most compelling uses of the description came over a year ago from a student who didn’t grow up going to church. In fact, he’d only been to a church a couple times before he moved to Winona from Pennsylvania. During his first week of college, he happened upon the coffee shop we shared space with and picked up a bookmark with information about dinner and worship. He took it as a sign to show up the next week. After a year of being with the LCC, a friend asked why he “bothered with this God stuff.” Alex replied, “I feel loved.” The friend pressed further, pointing out that he was loved by friends and family. “So why the LCC?” Our student said: **“This is the only place where I can be myself without having to earn my worth.”** We are bombarded by messages, daily, that try to convince us that our worth is conditional, therefore needing to be earned. As Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber once preached, “My soul can never feel its worth if it has to earn it.” **The LCC is a place- a home- where souls feel their worth held in God’s grace.**



CLC EVENTS

SEMN Synod WELCA Convention is on Saturday, September 27th in Waseca at Grace Lutheran Church. The theme is *Speak Up*, and will feature speaker Joy McElroy from the *Cherish All Children* organization.

<https://www.lssmn.org/services/youth/education/cherish-all-children>. The cost is \$25 (includes lunch) but free to a number of first time Synod gathering attendees (application required). Details are posted on the WELCA bulletin board or contact Janet for registration information. *Mark your calendars now, find a friend to carpool.*

The Quilters are seeking donations for **School Kits** to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. See the graphic below for the supply list.

Looking ahead, Sunday October 5th is the kick off for Breast Cancer Awareness month, including our walk and displays. This fundraiser supports many projects, including knitted knockers. This year Sequoia group is partnering with our efforts and will be providing treats for that morning.

Note: Our September meeting will be September 8th at 9:30 am in Grace Hall. Want to get involved but can't attend the meeting? Contact Janet jheukesh@smumn.edu.



GAME DAY IS BACK!

Join friends and meet new ones as we enjoy playing cards, board games, puzzles, etc. in Grace Hall Friday, September 19th 1-3 PM. Bring your favorite game, if you'd like, and a snack to share. Games will be your choice to play and/or teach and is open to all adults.

IF YOU NEED A RIDE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE, 507-452-5156, THE DAY BEFORE BY 4PM

CLC HAPPENINGS



Annual Fall Mum Sale

September 6th and 7th

The Social Concerns Committee will be offering beautiful mum plants perfect for your fall decorating. There will be multiple colors to choose from. Plants will be available for pick up at CLC on Saturday afternoon 2-4 PM and on Sunday morning between services.

Your generous donations for the plants will support the committees financial ministry to Central Youth, WIN, and the Lutheran Campus Center.

WIN

Members of WIN give thanks to all who have given their time, talents, and gifts. We are grateful for the support of Central Lutheran, Faith Lutheran, Cedar Valley, Grace Presbyterian, First Congregational, St. Paul's Lutheran, UCC, Church of the Brethren in Lewiston, Minneola Lutheran, and numerous community members. There are many avenues of responsibility and members always step up to the task at hand.

All of our WIN families now have their work permits and are paying all of their monthly expenses, as well as contributing towards their legal fees. School has begun and WIN has 3 students at Winona Middle School and the youngest is attending CLC childcare center. We count on, and are grateful for the support of our Central Lutheran congregation members who have given gifts, attended fundraisers, and have been willing to provide transportation when needed.

"Salads of the World" was very successful and well attended. Many guests commented on the variety of delicious salads and their enjoyment of the background harp music provided by the "Winona Heart Strings Harp Circle". We appreciate their wonderful contribution to the luncheon atmosphere.

Saturday, October 18, Lefse and Meatball Supper @ CLC in Grace Hall. Keep an eye out for more information in Octobers newsletter and in Central Currents.

Welcome Back to the FEAST!

September 10 will be the first FEAST meal of the 2025-2026 FEAST season. As always, a home-cooked meal is served on Wednesdays from 4:45-6:00 in Grace Hall. All are welcome, the meal is free, or a free will offering for those that can.

We can always use volunteers- we are a fun crew, please join us. Silver ware wrappers are needed for less than an hour on Tuesdays. Wednesday needs include setting up the hour before the FEAST, delivery drivers for those members receiving a home bound meal (approx. 4:45), and dishwashers (about 5:00-6:15), and dessert makers each week. If you are able, please call Laurie Laib at 454-6746.

September Menu

Sept 10: *Cooks-* Jay: pulled pork, baked beans, mac & Cheese, dessert

Sept 17: *Cooks-* Golf: Brats, potato salad, veggies, dessert

Sept 24: *Cooks-* Cindy P: Chicken dumpling soup, lettuce salad, dessert

Adult Education & Conversation Opportunities

One of the well-known Lutheran Theologians of the 20th century is Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor and teacher in Germany during WWII. He was a prolific writer who wrote about the church and his faith. On Sunday's at 9:30 am we will have a 6 week series called *Faith, Lies, and Spies: Bonhoeffer's life and you*. We will explore Bonhoeffer's faith journey as a guide for our journey of faith.

As a lead up to the Adult conversations on Sunday mornings we will have a showing of a movie about Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Wed. Sept 3rd @ 6:00 pm in Grace Hall, complete with popcorn to enjoy during the movie. Come and join us. Reach out to Julie P or Pastor Short if you have questions.



SAFETY AND SECURITY TRAINING

Sunday
Sept. 28 @ 9:30AM OR **Sunday**
Sept. 29 @ 6PM

A one hour training for all ushers, sunday school and confirmation teachers, volunteers, council, and all interested!



FAITH IN MOTION

Oct. 31 - Nov. 2



2025 GATHERING EXPEDITIONS

Lutherdale Camp
Elkhorn, WI

8th-12th Graders

\$100 registration
(register here!)

Join Central youth as we gather with others from across the region for a weekend of worship, community, faith and service- National Youth Gathering style!

Registration is first come, first serve. Register ASAP!

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



COUNCIL REPORT: JULY 15, 2025

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

ABSENT: Julie Palubicki

Steve Everson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Scott opened with devotions.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Steve Hacken moved, Tammy seconded, carried to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tim moved, Tammy seconded, carried to approve the June 17, 2025, minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Pam Davick attended the meeting to give an update on the Feast. She said that there were various groups of people who worked during the last season for the Feast. It was great to see how all the people worked together. During the last season there were 3,348 meals served. Donations received were \$7,581.88 with a current balance of \$13,799.18. There has been great support from community businesses. Looking forward to the first meal being served in September.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Steve Hacken presented the following Treasurer's Report:

June Central Lutheran Church Treasurer Report

General financial summary numbers through the end of June:

June Income:	\$44,502
June Offering:	\$41,023
Year to Date Income:	\$232,435
June Expenses:	\$53,477
Year to Date Expenses:	\$348,341
June Balance:	(\$8,975)
Year to Date Balance:	(\$115,906)

Financial Notes:

- Income for June was above budget
- The net loss for the month was the lowest of the year
- The Child Care Center continues to run in the black

Following discussion, Scott moved, Tim seconded, carried to approve the June treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS

Organ Refurbishment

A kickoff for the organ refurbishment is being planned.

Sanctuary Air Conditioning

The air conditioning units in the sanctuary are not working correctly. There have been repairs made to the units, but replacement needs to be considered. Following discussion, Tim moved to replace one of the three air conditioning units, Tammy seconded, carried.

Review of Constitution and By-Laws

Pastor Short, Tammy, and Julie continue to review the documents.

CHURCH COUNCIL

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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

Picture Directory

A new picture directory is in the process of being created. Karen Jacobson will be the lead for this project. Information will be provided to the congregation within the next few weeks.

WSU Parking Lot Lease for 25/26 School Yea

Discussion was held on the lease to WSU for the parking lot on the corner of Winona and Sanborn Streets and it was decided to continue with the lease to WSU.

Mission Statement

Discussion was held on the current mission statement. Following discussion, Steve moved, Tim seconded, carried to amend the statement to be "Gathered in the Love of Christ, We Connect, Grow, and Serve."

STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were reviewed:

PASTORS:

- Weekly staff meetings
- Childcare conversation with Faith Lutheran
- Planning for fundraising on organ renewal
- Working with WIN
- Next Youth Committee meeting is August 18
- Fall safety and security training to be scheduled
- Working on Child/Adult Policy
- CLC Youth Mission Trip with seventeen youth to Milwaukee
- First class on "Arte Divina" had seven participants, next class is July 30
- Sugar Loaf Theater Musical will be presented at Central on August 1 and August 2
- Noon organ recitals will be in September
- Bach Society of Minnesota Concert is also in September
- The Messiah will be performed at Central on Saturday, December 6, at 7:00 PM
- Digital bulletins have been used to reduce the paper expenses
- Ecumenical Service will be on Sunday, July 20, at the Bandshell by Lake Winona
- The Child Care Center has 55 children enrolled from 40 families

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Welcome and Worship – Service at Bandshell on July 20 and at Windom Park on August 17
- There is a need for a new picture directory
- Progress continues on LED light replacement
- Water main leak on Huff Street – old service needs to be capped
- Landscaping issues were discussed

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

The Council thanked Tammy and Todd for hosting our picnic/meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.



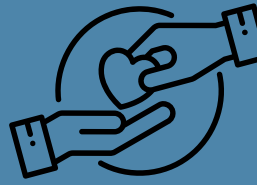
FINANCIAL REPORT

July 2025

Total Income: \$39,320.98

Total Expenses: \$51,514.09

Offering Goal: \$55,193.00



Thank you for your support of Central's Ministry

Gifts in memory or honor of someone **Memorials July 11 through August 12, 2025**

**In Honor of Don & Joni Klagge's
60th Wedding Anniversary
Given by Don & Joni Klagge,
Marie & Keith Holmquist**

**Thrivent Choice Dollars
Given by Julia Wolf, Marilyn
Marquardt**

**In Honor of Don & Joni Klagge
Given by Judy Davis**

Designated Gifts in July

Building Maintenance Fund	\$493.00
WVS Food Shelf	\$220.00
Youth Fund	\$220.00
Organ Fund	\$105.00
Youth Mission Trip	\$600.00
VBS	\$40.00
WELCA	\$20.00

Organ refurbishment/sanctuary renewal project

We have discussed a few times over the last year our upcoming projects to refurbish our organ and possibly update the flooring and walls in the sanctuary. That fundraising has been put off until February 2026. As we plan the program to raise the funds, we need to determine the full scope of the project. While we are committed to the organ refurbishment, the other work in the sanctuary could be done at any time. In the meantime, if you are so inclined to support the organ refurbishment and/or the sanctuary renewal work, please feel free to do so. We have a fund for the Organ Refurbishment and a fund for Building Repairs where you can direct your contributions. Thank you for your interest in support for these upcoming projects.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Office Closed in Observance to Labor Day	9:00 am, Quilters	12:00 pm, Organ Recital 6:30 pm, Bonhoeffer Movie	10:00 am CLC Book Group		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:50 am, Traditional Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, Modern Worship 10:30 am, Sunday School Children Sing	9:30 am, WELCA	9:00 am- Quilters 5:00 pm, Property Committee	12:00 pm, Organ Recital 4:45 pm, FEAST Meal	10:00 am, Welcome & Worship		7:00 pm, Bach at Leipzig
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sunday School Teacher Installation at both services 8:50 am, Traditional Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, Modern Worship	4:00 pm, Welcoming Table	Newsletter Articles Due 9:00 am, Quilters 5:00 pm, Safety & Security 6:30 pm, Council Meeting	12:00 pm, Organ Recital 1:30 pm, Esther Circle 4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation Starts	1:30 pm, Hannah Circle	7:00 pm, Bach at Leipzig	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:50 am, Traditional Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, Modern Worship	9:00 am, Social Concerns	9:00 am, Quilters	4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation	9:00 am, Newsletter Volunteers		
28	29	30				
8:50 am, Traditional Worship 9:30 am, Safety & Security Training 9:50 am, Sunday School 10:30 am, Modern Worship 1:00 pm, Luren singers	6:00 pm, Safety & Security Training	9:00 am, Quilters				

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

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



259 W. Wabasha St. Winona, MN
55987

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Winona, MN 55987



What's Coming Up

Sept 1- Office Closed

Sept 7- 8:30 & 10:30 AM Fall worship schedule begins

Sept 10- 12:00 pm, Organ Recital

4:45 pm, FEAST Meals begin

Sept 13: 7:00 pm, Bach at Leipzig

Sept 14: Sunday School Teacher Installation @ both services

Sept 16: Newsletter Articles Due

Sept 17: 12:00 pm, Organ Recital

6:30 pm, Confirmation Begins

Sept 28: 9:30 am, Safety & Security Training

1:00 pm, Luren Singers

Sept 29: 6:00 pm, Safety & Security Training



507.452.5156

Contact Us

centrallutheranchurch.org



office@centrallutheranchurch.org

259 W. Wabasha St.
Winona, MN 55987

