

CLC NEWSLETTER

JUNE & JULY 2025



Vision & Mission

"Gathered in the love of God, we connect 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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the last few months I have been uplifted and encouraged by your participation in our adult education time on Sunday mornings. Back in January some of our newer members asked about an adult confirmation class since many had come from other denominations and wanted to learn more about what it means to be a Lutheran. Following those classes, we focused on the five gifts or promises made at the time of our baptism during the season of Lent. There we focused living out our faith in the world by as we live among faithful people and to work for justice and peace. In the middle of those promises we were reminded our need to gather to hear the Word of God and to partake in the Lord's Supper. So now as all the spring activities of the church wind down, as the school year ends and the summer busyness begins, I encourage you to remember and hold fast to your promise and gather with us to partake in the Lord's Supper whenever you are able.

For me it does not matter if it is summer or winter, I need the regular rhythms of daily life to help keep me grounded. I need my glass of orange juice and a cup of coffee in the morning to help start my day. In the same way I need to gather with others on a Sunday morning for worship with prayer and thanksgiving to God to help start my week. So I encourage you to stay connected in whatever way you can by joining us in person or taking advantage of our live-stream on Sunday mornings (@9:30am) if you are away from Winona.

Your connection to Central is important not only for you but for Central as a whole. Central would not exist without you and your support, support both of your time and of your resources. This is even more true during the summer months as in other times of the year. The budget and expenses of the church continue here just as it does for your own household. So for those of you who travel during different times of the year, which take you away from being present in worship, I ask you to consider signing up for automatic giving. There are a variety of ways this can be done. In doing so you bless the church in your giving and the church is blessed with a consistent stream of support without the continual ups and downs in the summer months. If you would like to find out more about how automatic giving works, please talk with Mark Boysen, our Financial Assistant and myself and we can get you the information.

Secondly the life of the church does not slow down just because summer has arrived. The church staff continues to plan worship, to organize opportunities to gather so you might grow in your faith. Your support in all the various ways continues in addition to your financial support; by assisting in worship or working at a habitat build or cleaning up the highway, all the ways we continue to work for justice and peace in God's world.

So I invite you to take time to read the other reports in the newsletter from Pr. Kirsten about the many activities being planned for our youth and our families at Central, or Eric's report about our plans for summer worship. Again this year we will be worshipping outside in the parks around Winona, including an ecumenical worship service with other churches in town.

During these weeks of absence, of traveling, of building connections with family and God's creation, I want to reassure you we as the church will be praying for you and your family, for your safety, for your health and your peace. As such, I covet your prayers for myself, for the staff at Central as well as for your church family during these days of separation that God might watch over us until we are once again gathered together on one family in this place.

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,

With spring on the way out, and summer on the way in, it's easy to get lost in the anticipation of warmer days, cool water and lots of sunshine. I, for one, am looking forward to working in the garden, vacations and time spent outside.

As we, as a church and as Minnesotans, make the transition over to warmer weather, the church also makes a transition to a time of refreshment. Sunday school and confirmation take a few months off, while school is out of session, and the Feast takes a break as well. Mix these things with transitioning to one service for the summer, and it may be easy to think that the church is taking the summer off. I am here to say that is far from the truth!

Summer may seem like a time to relax from ministry, but I like to think of summer is merely a time to engage in a different kind of ministry- that of community and fellowship. This summer we have two church meet-ups to attend. One on June 18th at Lake Park, where we will enjoy pizza at the park. The other meet-up happens on July 18th, at the aquatic center from 7-9pm. We encourage all ages to come and swim as we celebrate what will be the week of Vacation Bible School.

Our middle and high schoolers will be experiencing a different community while they work to help support food insecurity in Milwaukee through the mission trip at the end of June. Not only that, but Vacation Bible School (July 14-17) will be exploring community as we answer the question "Who is my neighbor?". I am very excited that Central will be running our own VBS this year with the help of a great group of volunteers! Our church will transform into "Central City" as we explore the idea of community in the Bible, play games, have arts and crafts and an overall good time. Lastly, some of our students will live out community as they retreat to Good Earth Village for summer camp. They will experience the wider Lutheran community through southeast Minnesota and the local community that is built week after week in camp.

Above all of this, while we are out hiking, on the river, at work, or on vacation, we are the body of Christ outside the church, we are the community of believers that brings good news, love and grace wherever we go. Not only do we have an opportunity for different kinds of ministry to happen at church this summer, we have a chance to go and be disciples and take our faith to new places, embodying Jesus' love for others.

With all the action that is happening this summer, there are many needs for Vacation Bible School, including adult "Shepards", who will be with and lead small groups throughout the week of VBS. Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities!

Go out and BE the church, the community of God this summer,

Pastor Kristen Massa



A MESSAGE FROM OUR WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS DIRECTOR

*"Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy."
(Psalm 96:12)*

SUMMER WORSHIP

One of the traditions I happily inherited at Central was moving worship outside during the summer months. This year we have scheduled our outdoor services on the third Sunday of June, July, and August.

June 15

"Shall we gather at the river?" ... yes, we shall! The garden space adjacent to the Minnesota Marine Art Museum provides the perfect place to see God's work up close. Eagles soar above the mighty Mississippi while the lush greenery surrounds the congregation. The area is also flat and easily accommodates disabled individuals.

July 20

For the past two summers, we have collaborated with several other congregations on an ecumenical outdoor worship service. Those services were held at Unity Park near Winona Health. While this location is fitting for an ecumenical service, we recognized the difficulties associated with the location including parking, uneven ground, and the unrelenting direct sun on the altar area. Plans are moving forward to once again worship with the other congregations. This year we plan to return to Lake Park to worship in the Bandshell. Moving to the Bandshell addresses the parking and accessibility issues and provides shade for the pastors, musicians, and worship assistants.

August 17

Our last outdoor gathering for 2025 will return to a congregation favorite – Windom Park. Because the park is close to Central, moving the sound and video equipment, tables, communion supplies, etc. is a much simpler task. By mid-summer, Windom Park is heavily shaded making it comfortable for everyone.

The "Summer Singers" will prepare music for the first and last outdoor service and I am working with Dr. Eric Brisson from Wesley Methodist for a community choir at the July ecumenical service.

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



A. ERIC HEUKESHOVEN





Central Lutheran Church
Child Care Center

June/July 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

Summer Time!

June is the beginning of our summer session here at CLC CCC! Although we still work on the academics we take advantage of the warmer weather to do more of our learning and fun outside! On any given morning in the summer you can see groups of children riding bikes, having water play experiences, and going for neighborhood walks!



July Fundraiser

We will be selling Pastry Puffins July 2-16. Order forms will be out by the church front desk or you can email the center to place an order. Pick Up will be July 30 in the afternoon!



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

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

CLC EVENTS

CLC Hosts A Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, July 10th 12 to 6 PM

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 can donate blood, please consider doing so. An appointment is required- no walk-ins. You can schedule an appointment for July 10th or another date that is convenient for you by contacting the Red Cross. Schedule online at www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Hosted by Central Lutheran Social Concerns Committee and the Kiwanis Sunrisers Club.



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life



Summer has finally arrived and we'll be seeing each other during the single summer service on 9:30m Sunday mornings! Thanks to everyone who planned and participated in the second annual church picnic on May 4th. It was a great celebration of another year of Sunday School, plan to attend next May and join us for brats, hot dogs, chips, desserts and great fellowship with your CLC friends.

Do you like to walk and talk? WELCA Walkers is a new group open to ALL church members who would like to add some exercise and friendship to their lives. Open to all ages, we will meet at Judy Inman's home (468 West Lake Street) at 10 AM every Thursday morning starting On June 5th. Come as often as you can, wear comfortable shoes and clothes, and get in your steps for the day! Plan on 1 hour for the activity which will start and end at Judy's house. Hope to see you on the walking path soon!

At our June meeting we'll be planning for VBS (Vacation Bible School) July 14-17, there are many ways you can be involved with crafts, music, food, even storytelling!

An upcoming project to create a 2026 calendar featuring our beautiful stained glass windows is being planned. It will be a large wall calendar, stained glass digital images suitable for framing. The goal is to have them for sale by late October/early November, early enough for Christmas gift giving. More details will be coming in July including prices, availability for sale, etc. Our windows are beautiful works of art, let's celebrate their beauty and raise funds for our pipe organ refurbishing and sanctuary upgrades.

Blessings, enjoy God's creation in our beautiful river valley this summer.
Janet Heukeshoven

Our WELCA meetings have shifted to the first Monday of the month, 9:30-10:30 AM in Grace Hall. It's our monthly officers gathering, but all are welcome to join in the conversation.

Food Shelf

During March and April Central has donated 295 pounds of food and 1,359 (x2) in cash which converts to a total of 3,013 pounds of food. This brings the grand total to 5,398 pounds of food donated this year. Thank you to everyone who participates in this very important mission.

Outdoor Music at the Park

The Minnesota Orchestra will once again perform at Lake Park on Saturday, July 5th at 7:30 PM. Come and join us in the "CLC Section" as we listen to this free outdoor concert. We'll have a canopy (or two) and some CLC banners/flags to identify our location. Bring your chairs, beverages, snacks or whatever and enjoy an evening of music with friends.

CLC Book Group

The book group is reading " The Hate You Give" by Angie Thomas. We meet on June 5th at 10 am in Grace Hall. We are not meeting in July so our next meeting will be August 7th,, 10 am in Grace Hall. All are welcome to join us.

CLC HAPPENINGS

There is power in prayer: Update on Jared Reyes

Jared Reyes is the great-nephew of Jazmina and Julio. He lives in Nicaragua. He is on the prayer list at Central Lutheran.

Jared's Story.

Jared came to our family 6 years ago, our miracle; as we called him from birth. He was a child with a zest for life. He is a warrior since he was born very prematurely and the doctors didn't give him much hope for survival. He was in an incubator for four months until he was discharged. It was a great joy for the whole family to have him home. The doctor gave him some care recommendations (such as dietary restrictions, cold drinks, avoiding cold climates, etc.) due to his premature birth. Jared was a happy, very active boy. When he entered class, his teacher was instructed on how to care for Jared. Knowing this, the teacher neglected the child, giving him drinks and ice cream, which caused the child to develop neoplasia, which is why he was taken to the hospital. While in the hospital, Jared had to be taken to intensive care because he couldn't breathe. While there, the doctors gave his parents the news that he had to have an operation for an intestinal problem. This was something that surprised Jared's parents because they didn't understand the situation. He underwent surgery where they had to remove 40 percent of his intestine and then there were 4 more operations for that reason. While always in intensive care, Jared suffered from seizures and then the devastating news came from the doctors that the child had suffered a stroke. The news was very hard, but we always trusted that God was with him and that God would be in control of everything in Jared's life. We continued praying, and we asked the congregation of Central Lutheran and friends to join us in our prayers. After 10 months the doctor told Jared's parents that the child would become a vegetable, (he would not eat on his own, that he had to be tube fed, he would never talk or walk again). Hearing that news was sad but the family never stopped believing that we had a God who was with us and with Jared. At last the doctor told his parents that he would be released from the hospital, but that they had to prepare a very special condition for him. A room was prepared in his grandmother's house where only she and Jared's parents could be caring for him because if she exposed him to environmental contact, he could relapse. Since then, Jared has remained in the care of his grandmother and his parents. Time has passed, and thanks to God first, and to all the people, along with the Central Lutheran congregation and friends, who have prayed for Jared's recovery. Now he has had a recovery beyond the doctor's prognosis, and we are trusting in God that he will continue to recover.

My family and Jared send to the Lutheran congregation many thanks for your prayers.

God bless you.

Psalm 62:8 "Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us."

John 14:13 and 14 "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son: if you ask anything in my name, I will do it."

John 16:24. "Hitherto you have asked nothing in my name; ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full."



Jared Now

Play Ball!

Only a few tickets left for the Minnesota Twins vs. the Milwaukee Brewers at Target Field on Sunday, June 22nd. The cost is \$130/ticket which includes bus ride and reserved seating in the Legends Landing section with unlimited food and beverage. The game starts at 1:10 PM so we will board the bus at 9 AM in the church parking lot. Estimated time of return to Winona is 6 PM. To reserve your seat, payment must be made to Shayna in the church office.



Habitat for Humanity

The annual Hootenanny Fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity is on Friday, June 20th at Two Fathoms Brewery in Winona. Central Lutheran is a Silver Sponsor and we have 8 tickets available for purchase. Please be part of the Central group by signing up with Shayna by June 5th. This is a fun way to support adding/maintaining housing options in Winona County. We have a tentative date for a Habitat work group, Tuesday August 12th. If you think you can join us sign up with Shayna. There is always something you can do even if you are not good with a hammer. There are many volunteer opportunities available at Habitat-call them at 507-457-0003.

WIN

Our WIN families are doing well. We are hopeful that Adrianna will have her work permit by August, and then everyone will be employed! We are planning some new fundraisers to help them pay attorney fees. These fees allow them to obtain work permits and representation in the asylum process. We are planning a Salad Luncheon for Saturday, August 16th. Mark it on your calendars and watch Central Currents for more information. Other **fun fundraisers** we are planning for you to look forward to in the fall include a , **First Congo Cafe event**, an **Ice Cream and Pie Social**, a **Chicken Q**, and a **Lefse and Meatball Dinner**. Watch the Newsletter and Central Currents for more details.

Central Lutheran Family Summer

June:

Pizza in the Park
June 25, 5-7PM
Lake Park

July:

Vacation Bible
School:
July 14-17

Central Lutheran
Night at the Pool
July 18, 7:15-9
BW Aquatic
Center

Central at Camp:

Join Pastor
Kristen at
Good Earth
Village
July 20-25

VBS
Registration:



Central City VBS 2025



register here!

"Who is my neighbor?"

July 14-17, 9am-3pm

Central Lutheran Church

Winona, MN



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: APRIL 15, 2025

Call to order

Present: Pr Michael, Pr Kristen, Steve E. Myrna, Tim, Julie, Tammy
Absent: Scott, Steve H.

Devotions – Julie

Approval of Agenda Tim/Julie - approved

Approval of Minutes Tammy/Tim - approved

Approval of Treasurer's Report Tammy/Julie - approved

General financial summary through the end of March from Steve Hacken:

March Income: \$42,257

March Offering: \$39,866

Year to Date Income: \$113,118

March Expenses: \$54,136

Year to Date Expenses: \$180,958

March Balance: (\$11,879)

Year to Date Balance (\$67,840)

Financial Notes:

- March income was significantly below goal of \$55,008
- March expenses were less than March 2024, Annual expenses about \$10K more than 2024

Committee report – Welcome and Worship Committee: Carol Kramer informed the council of all the activities which the Welcome and Worship committee is working on. They assign and find worship assistants, ushers, communion helpers and altar guild. They coordinate with the pastors and Eric on worship items and changing of the colors within the sanctuary according to the season of the church year. They host event throughout the year to celebrate the volunteers, high school seniors, confirmation and other important dates within the church year. The committee helps to plan the CLC Social events trying to host an event two or three times a year. One coming up is a trip to a Twins game in June. This group is central to other events like the annual Rummage sale. The committee consists of Carol Kramer (chair), Laurie Laib, Peggy Twait, Karen Jacobson, along with Eric, Pr. Kristen and Pr. Michael.

Old Business

1. Organ Refurbishment / Sanctuary renewal fundraising – Pr. Michael gave an update on the renewal process. Holding meeting for the congregation to give input on May 11th and 18th between services. Organ project to begin Jan 2027 lasting 8 months at cost of \$200,000

2. Child Care center expansion at Faith – waiting on Fire Marshall / licensing to review building and make recommendations as to what needs to be done.

3. Review of Constitution and By-Laws – process started; Tammy, Julie and Pr Michael working on project during the summer, others are welcome to join us. Plan is to have a vote on proposed changes at next annual meeting.

4. Synod Assembly Delegates – May 30th-31st

- a. Steve and Vickie Everson along with Pr Michael and Pr Kristen

5. Saturday night worship service – follow up conversation from council Exec meeting. Agreed is something is done it should not add to the work load of the pastors or Eric. Discussed revisiting this during the organ renewal when we will be moving worship to other spaces.

COUNCIL REPORT CONTINUED

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

New Business

1. Update on LCC building – Pr Michael updated the council letting them know the LCC building will need to be torn down. The LCC is in the process of approving a new building plan but may not be available to be occupied until sometime in the fall. Pr Corrine will continue to work out of the CLC Library until the building is completed.

Staff and committee Reports: all staff and committee reports were reviewed.

Tim/Tammy- approved

Highlights:

- a. Weekly staff meetings to coordinate ministry activities at Central
- b. Holy Week and Easter services planned to connect with members and families
- c. Confirmation classes will end for year on May 7th
- d. FEAST meals will end for spring on May 7th
- e. Pr Kristen continues to attend FCTE (First Call Theological Ed) events
- f. Pastors attending local text study and conference events
- g. Sunday School year will end on May 4th with an outdoor event
- h. WELCA annual picnic on May 4th following worship
- i. Musical events coming in May – Rochester Hand bells, concert for Ukraine
- j. Childcare Center – 59 students with staff of 37 working to hire additional staff
- k. Safety and Security scheduling AED training for April 22
- l. Discussed if there was a need for an additional worship service on Easter

Next meeting date – May 20, 2025

Devotions – Tim

Committee to invite to next meeting - FEAST

Adjournment / Lord's Prayer

Mission Statement of Central Lutheran Church

Gathered in the love of God, we connect and serve



FINANCIAL REPORT

April 2025

Total Income: \$43,953.48

Total Expenses: \$61,321.85

Offering Goal: \$48,146.00

Thank you for your support of Central's Ministry



Gifts in memory or honor of someone **Memorials Apr 11 through May 8, 2025**

CHILDCARE CENTER
Memory of Dave Ruppert
Given by Marie & Keith
Holmquist

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS
Given by Mark Boysen

Designated Gifts in April

Building Maintenance Fund	\$783.00
WIN	\$2,738.69
WVS Food Shelf	\$226.00
Youth Fund	\$6,140.20
FEAST	\$764.75
Organ Fund	\$50.00
Youth Mission Trip	\$1,256.00
Sunday School	\$227.50
VBS	\$10.00
Flower Fund	\$1,565.00

ART

and faith



Join Pastor Kristen in exploring how faith and art weave together. These are hands-on workshops that will allow us to practice and participate in our own creativity and faith. No materials needed, all skill levels, and ages, encouraged and welcomed.

JUNE 24: 6:30-8PM

JULY 30: 9-11AM

AUGUST 23: 9-11AM

JUNE 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30 am, Blended Worship 9:30 am, Senior Sunday 1:00 pm, Winona Fiddlers Concert- more info to come	9:30 am, WELCA 6:15 pm, WIN	9:00 am, Quilters		10:00 am- CLC Book Group		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30 am, Blended Worship		9:00 am- Quilters 5:00 pm, Property Committee		10:00 am, Welcome & Worship		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30 am, Outdoor Worship @ MMAM	9:30 am, Social Concerns 5:30 pm, Youth Committee	9:00 am, Quilters 6:30 pm, Council Meeting	1:30 pm, Esther Circle 5:00 pm, Pizza in the Park	1:30 pm, Hannah Circle		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		9:00 am, Quilters 5:00 pm, Safety & Security mtg 6:30 pm, Art and Faith				
29	30		28	29	30	31
9:30 am, Blended Worship						

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

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

JULY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		9:00 am, Quilters		Office Closed	Office Closed	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 am, Blended Worship	9:30 am, WELCA 6:15 pm- WIN	9:00 am- Quilters 5:00 pm, Property Committee		10:00 am, Welcome & Worship 12:00 pm, Blood Drive		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 am, Blended Worship	9:00 am, VBS	9:00 am, Quilters 9:00 am, VBS 5:00 pm, Safety & Security mtg 6:30 pm, Council Meeting	9:00 am, VBS 1:30 pm, Esther Circle	9:00 am, VBS 1:30 pm, Hannah Circle	9:00 am, Last day of VBS 7:00 pm, CLC Swim @ Aquatic Center	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 am, Ecumenical Outdoor Worship @ Lake Bandshell	Newsletter Articles Due 9:00 am, Social Concerns 5:30 pm, Youth Committee	9:00 am, Quilters				
27	28	29	30	31		
9:30 am, Blended Worship		9:00 am, Quilters	9:00 am, Art and Faith			

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

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



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What's Coming Up

June 1- 9:30 am, Senior Recognition

June 15- 9:30 am, Outdoor Worship @ MMAM

June 22- 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, Twins vs Brewers Game

July 3 & 4- Office Closed

July 14-18- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, VBS

July 20- 9:30 am, Ecumenical Outdoor Worship @ Lake Park
Bandshell

July 21- Newsletter Articles Due



507.452.5156

Contact Us

centrallutheranchurch.org



office@centrallutheranchurch.org

259 W. Wabasha St.
Winona, MN 55987

