

CLC NEWSLETTER

May 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,

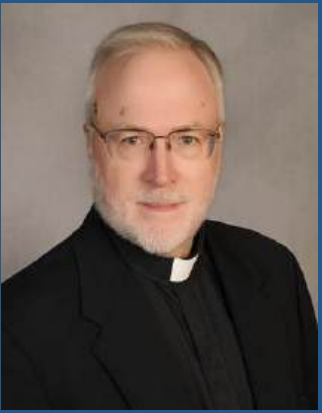
Spring time is a joyous, hope filled time. At least for us who live in the northern hemisphere, it is the time of renewal and rebirth. With spring comes the greening of the earth, the blooms of the first flowers, the tulips and daffodils. For myself, it is a time when my hands get itchy to get back into the gardens, to dig in the soil and to celebrate the warmth and the sunshine long into the evening.

For us as followers of Christ, it can be even more joyous because Easter and the fulfillment of the promise of the resurrection. One of the parts of the Easter season in the church is the stories we get of Jesus showing himself to his followers after his resurrection before he ascends back to the Father. Maybe I like these stories because they remind me how much I and maybe all of us are like the disciples. Following Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection we hear about how his followers, believing Jesus might be the one are hiding, locked away out of fear. We find them locked away in a room, even after the women who were the first witnesses came and told them that Jesus was alive.

In one of my favorite accounts from Luke referred to as the Road to Emmaus, the believers were dejected and leaving Jerusalem after all that had taken place, even after hearing from the women they left town to go home. Along the way they could not stop talking about what had happened, yet they were only talking among themselves until a stranger (Jesus) showed up. Then it seemed ironic that they give witness to what they had seen and heard to the very one they were speaking about. Yet Jesus as gracious as he is, let them practice their sharing of the good news with him, not embarrassing them by saying 'do you not recognize me?' Instead once again teaches and reminds them of all the things he did while he was with them in life. Offering them time to work through their grief and sadness until they were able to recognize him in the breaking of the bread.

Is that not also who we are? How often we are not able to see that which is right in front of us until that spark, that familiar phrase or action reminds us. It is then when we are reminded all over again and start to question why we did not see it before. Only to run out and tell others of what we have seen and heard. That is the other thing this Easter Season does to us. At the end of many of the encounters with Jesus, he not only reminds them of everything he taught and did while he was with them, but Jesus sends them out to tell others, to share the Good News with the world. Again the same goes for us. In our gathering we encounter Christ, our eyes are opened and we are sent to share the Good News with all the world, proclaiming that Christ has Risen, He as Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Pr Michael



REV.
MICHAEL
SHORT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ-

This month we are hosting two new member classes, one on May 13th, right after the Feast at 6 p.m. and the other on May 17th, in between our two worship services. We have seen lots of new faces around church and we are excited to share what it means to join Central Lutheran in our mission of “gathering together in the love of Christ to connect, grow and serve”. We hope that we see some of our new faces there. As a reminder, it is only necessary to come to one of the classes.

As we think about continuing to grow in our church and mission, I keep coming back to the question of “what does it mean to be a member of a church in the 21st century?” As we know, society and culture has shifted which means people do too. The role of church in people’s lives has changed and shifted, but what it means to be a member is still (almost) the same. First and foremost, not being a member doesn’t mean that someone doesn’t belong here. We know that the Holy Spirit works within people to bring them to a church they might call home. Someone saying they are or are not a member doesn’t make them belong any more or any less than the person who walked into the building for the first time last weekend.

Church membership is all about a commitment to the life, ministry and resources of the congregation, as well as to the denominational whole of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Being a church member in the 21st century means committing to a church family, a church building and saying “YES!” to where the Holy Spirit has called you. When someone joins the church, they are joining a collective body of baptized believers who are driven by the same mission and vision. At Central, members are committing to the ways in which we feel called by God to reach out to the world and community around us to share God’s love.

Becoming part of a church in the 21st century is not like joining an organization or a baseball team. We believe that the Holy Spirit calls us together as a community of faith, one body, for worship, service, mutual conversation and consolation. We are called to be active in the church, attend service and events. We are called for service, to reach out to our neighbors as Jesus commanded. We are called to care for each other with conversation and reminders of God’s love. Lastly, we are called to this church to spread its mission with our giving of time, talents and resources. To be involved, to be committed, to say yes to where God is calling us.

As we welcome new members into Central later this month, we also hold onto how God has already called us, as a church, baptized member or not. We are thankful for those who show up to Central for the first time ever, to those who are committing to God through our mission and membership this month, and thankful to everyone in between to the members of church who have continually been leading Central to follow the Gospel over the last 60+ years. We are glad that you are here.

In Christ,
Pastor Kristen Massa



REV.
KRISTEN
MASSA



A MESSAGE FROM OUR WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS DIRECTOR

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

– Romans 8:28

ORGAN UPDATE

In my March 2026 article, I mentioned our organ tuners and renovators – Grandall & Engen – were scheduled to tune the organ before Easter. David Engen and I had a productive conversation when he was here, and the renovation schedule is on track to begin in January 2027. David believes the work could be completed by July 2027 barring complications. From a financial standpoint, this means a payment of \$19,000 will be due this July and monthly payments of \$21,000 will begin in January 2027. The Organ Fund balance stands at \$56,633.39 as of last month’s report.

Watch for upcoming announcements about ways you can make this project happen!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our event schedule becomes quite busy beginning in May and through the summer months.

- 5/2/26 – MN Boychoir concert at 7 pm
- 5/3/26 – MN Boychoir sings at 8:30 am worship
- 5/9/26 – Rochester Area Handbells concert at 7 pm
- 5/15/26 – Winona Community Chorale concert at 7 pm
- 5/16/26 - Winona Community Chorale concert at 2 pm
- 6/15-19/26 – Sugarloaf Theatre Summer Camp
- 6/28/26 – Outdoor worship at MN Marine Art Museum at 9:30 am
- 7/9/26 – Minnesota Beethoven Festival presents the King Singers at 7 pm
- 7/26/26 – Ecumenical worship at Lake Park Bandshell at 9:30 am

Clearly, the greater Winona community recognizes Central as a welcoming place! Each time we open our doors to outside groups we reaffirm our commitment to our friends and neighbors in Winona. It continues to be my honor, privilege, and joy to serve this amazing congregation and community.

Blessings, always.

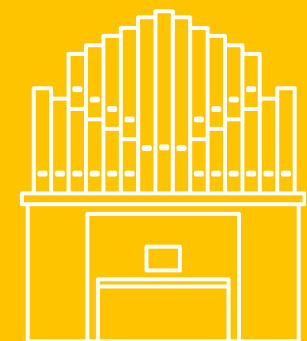
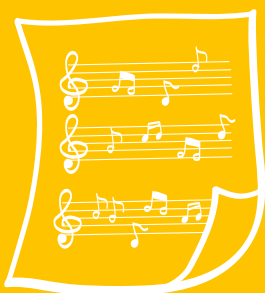
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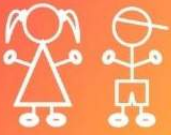
A. Eric Heukeshoven, M.S.
Director of Worship, Music & Arts



Rochester Area Handbells

A. ERIC
HEUKESHOVEN





Central Lutheran Church
Child Care Center

May Center News

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

A Lot of Learning Going On!

The month of April brings a lot of talk about Spring time in all of our classrooms! Children are learning about flowers and baby animals, exploring the ideas of recycling and reusing, and enjoying all the beautiful weather we are having! Early in the month we also celebrated Easter together! April is also a time for connecting and hosted parent teacher conferences at the center for us to collaborate with families even more!



Summer Staff

The center is currently looking to hire staff for our summertime program! If you know someone who is interested in working with children this summer who enjoys being active and spending time outside they can apply at:

childcarecenter@centrallutehranchurch.org



Enrollment

Our Infant Enrollment is open for March 2027. It is never too early to put your name on our list if you are expecting or planning on expecting.

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

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

WELCA NEWS



New Women's Bible Study

Who: Women of Central Lutheran Church, special welcome to those who are busy during the day

When: Wednesday, May 13, May 27 and continuing bi-weekly 6 to 7 pm

Where: Grace Hall, Central Lutheran Church

Why: Opportunity to study, discuss and grow our faith in a community of women

What: The greatest story -Bible Introduction, a study published by Augsburg Fortress
This story is 16 chapters starting with The Story-Introducing the Bible to Jesus People-The New Testament Story for Us. The study is filled with information you may not know about the Bible and its stories and encourages personal reflection and sharing Pastor Mike and Pastor Kristen will consult with us as needed if we have questions.

Questions: contact Gayle Garrity 507-961-0465, come on May 13th

CLC Prayer shawls and hearts are available

Difficult diagnosis, loss of a loved one, going away to college or moving away?
There are many reasons to give someone a prayer shawl or heart or even both
Prayer shawls are handmade with love by the women of Central and are available for you to give. They're not only for Central Lutheran members but are for anyone you want to share Gods love with: family, friends, co-workers, someone who could use some support. If you are interested in giving a shawl and/or heart away you can contact the church office at 507-452-5156 or Sheri Maier at 507-458-5574. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting a shawl please Sheri Maier.



WELCA CHURCH PICNIC

WHEN: MAY 3RD AFTER THE SECOND SERVICE

WHERE: CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHO: EVERYONE!

PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL WELCA PICNIC. ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND COMPANY!

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:

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

"... explores the fascinating and unique blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave Pack Horse librarians. A timeless and significant tale about poverty, intolerance, and how books can bring hope and light to even the darkest pocket of history." Karen Abbott

June 12: The Satisfaction Cafe by Kathy Wang

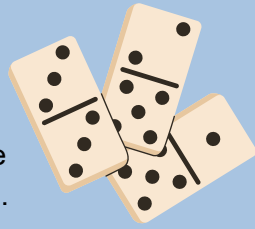
July 10: The End of Drum Time by Hanna Pylväinen



Game Day...Continues!

Game day is the 3rd Friday of each month, 1PM - 3PM. Weather permitting, beginning May 15th and continuing throughout the summer, we will gather at Lake Park at the Firefighter's Pavilion (the one with the red roof), located across from Bronk's. We'll have games or bring your own favorite card, board or lawn game along with a snack to share.

In case of rain or bad weather, we'll meet in Grace Hall.



MAY 30TH - AN EVENING WITH PAMELA MCNEIL



CLC Socials has planned an evening of good food, music and friendly conversation. We have tickets for "An Evening with Pamela McNeil" performing at the Academy Theater at MCA (Minnesota Conservatory for the Arts), 1164 W. Howard St., Winona at 7PM on Saturday, May 30th. We'll meet for dinner at Westfield Bar & Grill, 1460 W 5th St, Winona, at 5PM (dinner at your own expense), then head on over to the Theater. Tickets are \$24.50 each and available with Shayna during regular business hours. Only 20 tickets are available so get yours ASAP. It is general admission but there will be 20 seats roped off for our group.

FEAST

The Feast will wrap up its season with two meals in May. We want to thank the many folks that came out each week to share a meal and fellowship. Senior citizens to high school seniors, toddlers to walkers, (both mechanical and newly on foot), Central members and community members- we served them all!

We served roughly 125-140 meals each week. A huge shout out to Pam Davick who stepped in as coordinator. Pam oversees everything that goes into those many meals with good cheer and dedication. When you see her, give her a huge Thank You!

Jay Dureske has announced a needed pause and scale back as a cook. Jay has cooked 6 meals a year for many years. When you see Jay, give him a big Thank You! Jay leaves a void for which we need new folks to step up and fill. We have recipes, support and supplies, you just volunteer the time for a meal. Please think and pray about taking a meal or two sometime between September and mid-May. Most folks who cook come back again, this is a rewarding ministry. Please volunteer.

Join us in May for our last two meals of this season.

May 6: Kim A cook- tacos, refried beans, spanish rice

May 13: Thrivent cooks- brats, baked beans, potato salad

We'll be back to start a new season in early September, and we will need new volunteers. Please support this ministry with your energy and time. Have a great summer!

CLC EVENTS

Winona Immigration Update

The WIN committee would like to thank everyone for a great "Pie and Piano" afternoon. Many members from Central and the Winona community joined us in Grace Hall for a pleasant afternoon enjoying delicious pies and beautiful piano music. Thank you to pianist Nancy Bachler. Thank you to all who provided the delicious pies. It's so good to see the many community members who have been supportive of our ministry. We appreciate their willingness to contribute in many different ways.

The WIN committee is also planning a potluck picnic at Faith Lutheran on May 31st, from 3:00 to 6:30 for our WIN families and supporters. This will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass, lawn chairs and yard games if you have some. Our WIN families will also be sharing dishes served in their home countries. Faith Lutheran has a large area behind the church where we can share food, play games, and get to know one another better. You are most welcome to join us!

Please keep our families in your thoughts and prayers as we travel this journey together. - Denise and Judy

A graphic for Summer Worship featuring two overlapping circles, one purple and one orange, against a light blue background. The text is centered over the circles.

**SUMMER
WORSHIP**

Our Summer worship will begin
on May 24th. Worship will be at
9:30 am.

A graphic for a New Members Class with a teal and blue color scheme. The text is arranged in a vertical stack.

**NEW MEMBERS
CLASS**

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Are you interested in becoming a member of Central Lutheran Church? We welcome you to join us on May 13th at 6:00 pm or May 17th at 9:30 am in Grace Hall for a New Member Class.

Save the Date:



CENTRAL LUTHERAN EARLY CHILDHOOD MEET-UP



May 16th, 8:30-9:30am

Central Lutheran Youth
FLOWER SALE
and hanging basket pick-up
MAY 9

Outdoor potted flowers, hosta/lily/iris splits, hanging baskets and more!

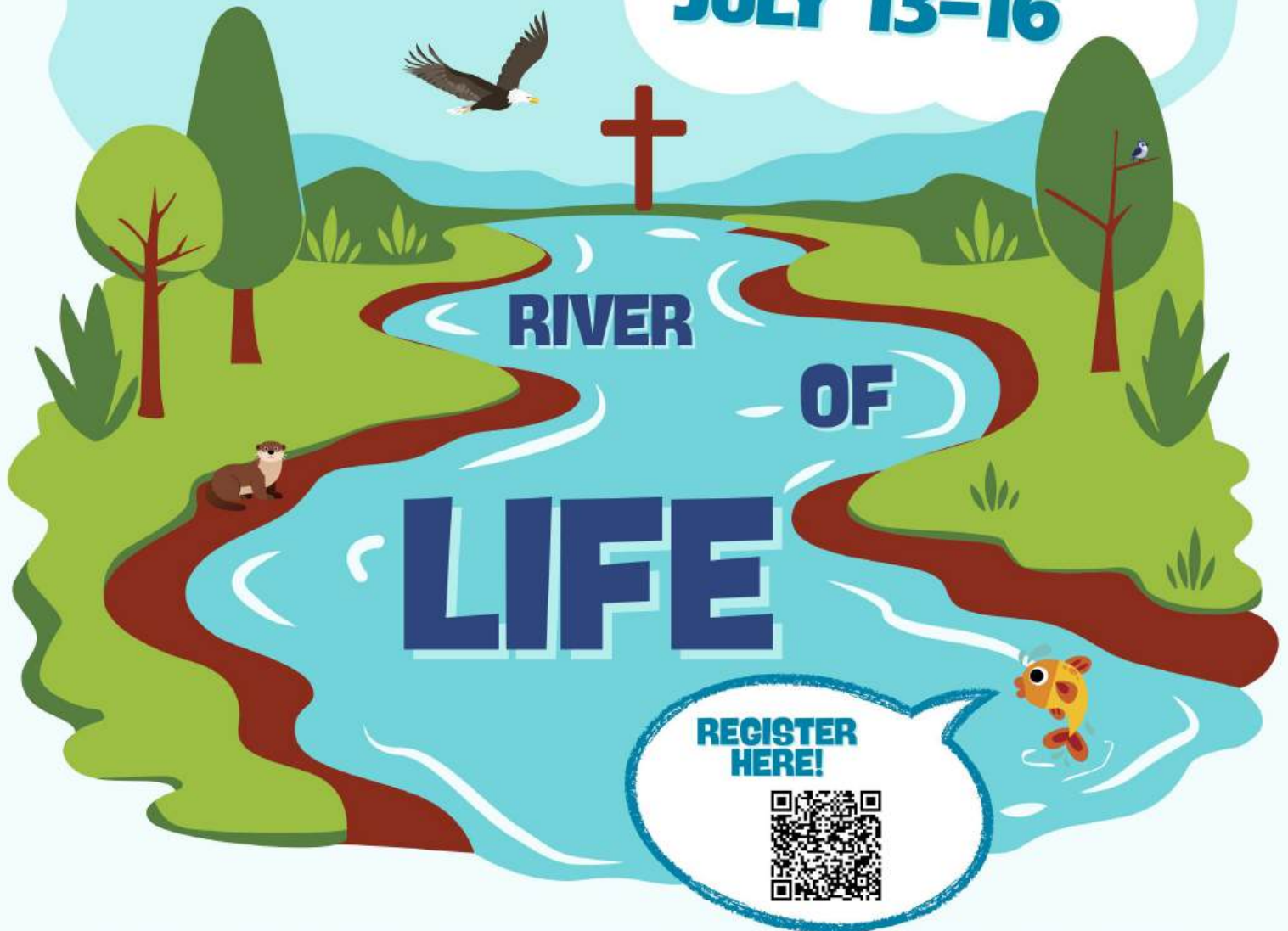
*Hanging Basket
Pre-Order Pick-Up
8:30-10am*

*Parking Lot Flower Sale
8:30am-12pm*



**CENTRAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

**VBS 2026
JULY 13-16**



**REGISTER
HERE!**



**JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR A WEEK OF FUN,
GAMES, ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING ABOUT GOD'S
WORK AND NOURISHMENT THROUGH WATER.**

9AM-3PM, LUNCH AND SNACKS PROVIDED, \$25/STUDENT

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES K-6

**FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL PASTOR KRISTEN MASSA AT
PRMASSA@CENTRALLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG**

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, WINONA MN



CHURCH COUNCIL

COUNCIL REPORT: MARCH 17, 2026

Present: Pastor Short, Pastor Massa, Steve Everson, Tim Laib, Steve Hacken, Tammy Swenson Lepper, Julie Palubicki, Jeremy Johnson

Absent:

Tim Laib called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions: Julie Palubicki

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Tammy, seconded, Julie. Unanimously approved

Report from Pastor Kristen: The Quality of Call conversation was the focus of a leadership session attended by Pastor Kristen. The ELCA has launched an initiative to support, connect, and empower female and non-binary rostered leaders. In support of this initiative, CLC will provide greater transparency around Women in the Bible, available resources, the Synod Call Process, and the pastors who are called to serve.

Approval of Minutes: Steve H. moved, Steve E. seconded. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Treasurer’s Report: Steve Hacken presented the Treasurer’s report for February. Moving and deleting accounts made the month look better than it was, and a large insurance payment was made. The church continues to struggle to pay bills at Central. The group discussed several ideas to encourage automatic giving. Steve E motioned to approve, Julie 2nd, unanimously approved.

February

Income: \$60,567 Offering: \$34,135 Expenses: \$71,521 Balance: (\$10,954)

Year to Date

Income: \$96,067 Expenses: \$145,669 Balance (\$49,602)

Old Business:

- Child Care Center expansion: Ongoing.
- Constitution/By-Laws: Constitution nearly complete; by-laws next.
- House purchase / gardens: Central Block team seeking commitments in coming months; garden plots assigned and remaining plots need planning.
- Wall for Shayna: Contractor still needed; may put in temporary barrier to prevent traffic behind the desk.
- Feast / LCC meals: Serve at Feast Apr 15; cook for LCC May 3.
- Council-as-leaders: Emphasis on faithful finances and communicating impact—plan to connect stories to ministry outcomes.

New Business:

- President-elect: Tammy Swenson-Lepper appointed to fill the role; executive board meetings will be eliminated, and an at-large position still needs to be filled (motion by Steve H., second by Tim; approved).
- Parking lot: The snow pile will be removed.

Staff Reports:

- Pr. Short: Organ marketing plan is ongoing but paused until summer; insurance switched March 1, saving about \$10–12K annually.
- Pr. Kristen: Busy February with a well-received youth retreat and strong Bingo night attendance; Family Creators Retreat planned for July at Wilderness Canoe Base; coordinating a meetup for newly baptized babies and families to build community.

Tammy moved to approve staff and committee reports; Julie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Next Meeting April 21st.

Devotions- Steve E.

Committee next meeting- Safety and Security- Tammy

Moved to adjourn Steve H. Steve E second. Unanimously approved.

Lord’s Prayer

PAST PRESIDENT
Steve Everson

PRESIDENT
Tim Laib

PRESIDENT ELECT
Tammy Swenson
- Lepper

TREASURER
Steve Hacken

SECRETARY
Jeremy Johnson

AT LARGE
Brett Cipperley

AT LARGE
Julie Palubicki



FINANCIAL REPORT

March 2026
Total Income: \$70,843.96
Total Expenses: \$71,319.88



Offering Goal: \$60,358.00

Thank you for your support of Central's Ministry

Gifts in memory or honor of someone **Memorials March 18 through April 16, 2026**

In Honor of Denise Bernatz
Given by Marie Holmquist

In Memory of Phyllis Fick
Given by Sue Vandervort

Thrivent Choice Dollars
Given by Dietrich Flesch, Marilyn Marquardt,
Donna Peterson, Steve Everson, Gayle
Garrity, Richard Garrity, Stephen Hacken,
Mark Jungerberg

In Memory of Greg Hagen
Given by Rev. David Berkedal, Rev. Sally Welch,
James Berkedal

Designated Gifts in February

Building Maintenance Fund	\$543.00
WVS Food Shelf	\$179.00
Youth Fund	\$810.00
Organ Fund	\$1,240.00
FEAST	\$767.00
Youth Mission	\$3,920.00
Memorials	\$120.00
LCC	\$300.00
Flowers	\$1,660.00
VBS	\$200.00

Volunteer Opportunity of the Month: Communion Assistant

Service Opportunity – Communion Assistant

Each week when we gather we gather around the Lord's Table for Holy Communion where we experience and meet Christ in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the wine. There is need for two or three persons each service to join Pr Kristen and Pr Michael to serve those who gather around the altar.

You would come forward at the time of communion and assist by pouring the wine and speaking the words: 'blood of Christ shed for you.' While the pastors most often hand out bread, you would have the option to do either one whichever is most comfortable to you. After everyone else is served, we gather together to share in the meal before you return to your seats.

If you would like to serve in this way or have questions, please contact Pr Michael or Pr Kristen.

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8:30 am, Worship 9:30 am, Sunday School - Last Day 10:30 am, Worship 11:30 am, WELCA Church Picnic</p>	<p>9:30 am, WELCA 6:15 pm, WIN</p>	<p>9:00 am, Quilters</p>	<p>4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:30 pm, Confirmation</p>	<p>6:00 pm, Clorioso Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10:00 am, CLC Book Group</p>	<p>8:30 am, Flower Sale & Hanging Basket pick up 7:00 pm, Rochester Area Handbells Concert</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>8:30 am, Worship 10:30 am, Worship</p>		<p>9:00 am, Quilters 5:00 pm, Property Committee Meeting</p>	<p>4:45 pm, FEAST Meal 6:00 pm, New Member Class 6:00 pm, WELCA Bible Study</p>	<p>10:00 am, Welcome & Worship</p>	<p>1:00 pm, Game day @ Lake 7:00 pm, Winona Community Chorale Concert</p>	<p>8:30 am, Early Childhood Meet-up 2:00 pm, Winona Community Chorale Concert</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>8:30 am, Worship 9:30 am, New Member Class 10:30 am, Worship</p>	<p>5:30 pm, Youth Committee</p>	<p>Newsletter Articles Due 9:00 am, Quilters 5:00 pm, Safety & Security Meeting 6:30 pm, Council Meeting</p>	<p>1:30 pm, Esther Circle 4:00 pm, Eucharist Minister Meeting</p>	<p>1:30 pm, Hannah Circle</p>		<p>10:00 am, Christopher Eden Memorial Service</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>9:30 am, Worship</p>	<p>Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day</p>	<p>9:00 am, Quilters</p>	<p>6:00 pm, WELCA Bible Study</p>	<p>9:30 am, Newsletter Volunteers</p>	<p>Charter Service- Monday's @ 7pm- Channel 986</p>	<p>CLC Socials Event</p>
<p>31</p>						
<p>9:30 am, Worship</p>						



259 W. Wabasha St. Winona, MN
55987

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



What's Coming Up

- May 2** - 7:00 pm, MN Boychoir Concert
- May 3** - 9:30 am, Sunday School - Last Sunday - Family Sunday
11:30 am, WELCA Church Picnic
- May 9** - 8:30 am, Hanging Basket Pick-Up & Plant Sale
7:00 pm, Rochester Area Handbells Concert
- May 13** - 4:45 pm, Last Feast Meal until September
6:00 pm, New Member Class
- May 15** - 7:00 pm, Winona Community Chorale Concert
- May 16** - 2:00 pm, Winona Community Chorale Concert
- May 17** - 9:30 am, New Member Class
- May 19** - June & July Newsletter Articles Due
- May 24** - 9:30 am, Summer Worship Schedule Begins
- May 25** - Office Closed in Obsevance of Memorial Day



507.452.5156

Contact Us

centrallutheranchurch.org



office@centrallutheranchurch.org

259 W. Wabasha St.
Winona, MN 55987

