

Annual Report 2024



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

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Central Lutheran Church, Annual Meeting of the Congregation

February 9 2025
12:00 p.m.
Rexanne Spicer, President

AGENDA

Welcome and Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Adoption of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes

February 11, 2024 - Annual Meeting Minutes

President's Report

Rostered Ministers' Reports

Written Reports to Note

Information Items

Strategic Plan Task Forces launched by the Congregation Council

Casavant Organ Committee Report

Sactuary Renewal Project Report

Action Items

Treasurer's Report

2025 Budget

Nominating Committee Report and Elections

Thank You, Prayer, and Benediction

Adjournment

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Central Lutheran Church was held in person on Sunday, February 11, 2024, and via the livestream link at www.centralmpls.org. The 2023 Annual Report was available to Central members attending or online via the church's website.

Call to Order

Congregation President Jeff Block began the meeting with a brief welcome and overview of the meeting and logistics for communication for those members on the livestream. He then called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., noting that those in attendance surpassed the constitution's quorum of 100.

Opening Prayer

The meeting began with an opening prayer led by Pastor Stephanie Friesen.

Adoption of the Agenda

Congregation President Jeff Block presented the Agenda that can be found on page 3 of the 2023 Annual Report.

A motion to approve the Agenda was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Congregation President Jeff Block presented the minutes from the February 12, 2023 Annual Meeting that can be found on pages 4-5 of the 2023 Annual Report.

A motion to approve these minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

President's Report

Congregation President Jeff Block shared highlights from his report. The Congregation President's report can be found on page 7 of the 2023 Annual Report.

Rostered Ministers' Reports

Pastors Peter Nycklemoe, Melissa Pohlman, and Stephanie Friesen shared highlights of their written reports. These reports can be found beginning on page 11 of the 2023 Annual Report. Pastor Peter also highlighted the Church Statistics, found on page 10.

Written Reports to Note

Bonnie Weisenburger gave a brief update from the Central Lutheran Foundation (found on page 23).

Sara Masters gave a brief update on operations and finance. Sara's report can be found on Page 27 of the 2023 Annual Report.

Congregation President Jeff encouraged all members to read the other written reports found in the 2023 Annual Report, beginning on Page 16.

Information Items

Pastor Melissa gave a brief update on the Advocating/walking with Strategic Initiative and next steps. Isaac Drewes, Director of Music & Principal Organist, shared updates on the Casavant Organ. Pastor Peter shared updates on the Choir Director Search.

Action Items:

Treasurer's Report and 2024 Budget

Treasurer Karl Starr presented an overview of the financial reports - Assets and Liabilities, 2023 Revenues and Expenses, 2023 Designated Fund Summary, and Proposed Budget for 2024 - beginning on page 28 of the 2023 Annual Report. A more detailed presentation of the financial reports was given at an in-person Budget Meeting two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

A motion to adopt the Treasurer's Report was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. A motion to adopt the 2023 Budget was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee Report

On behalf of the Nominating Committee and as affirmed by the council, David Brenke submitted the following nominations for leadership: Council (two-year term) – Congregation President Rexanne Spicer, Vice President Allison Eger, Secretary Heidi Tysk-Poppe; Council at-large Members (two-year term) Julie Anderson, Rachel Moeller; Nominating Committee (three-year term) – Ben Longman, Leon Tibben, Sara Gunsch; Audit Committee (three-year term) – Andrew Heintz. The Synod Assembly Voting Members were confirmed – Christa Olson, Karen Knox, Judy Hedman, Jeff Block. Thanks were expressed to those leaders completing their service: Rod Richter, Bruce Ellingson, David Brenke, Matt Grahn, Cathy Egan. This report appears on Page 34 of the 2023 Annual Report.

According to the Constitution, President Jeff asked for any nominations three times, of which there were none.

A motion to approve the full slate of candidates was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Words of Gratitude, Closing Prayer, and Benediction

Pastor Peter recognized and thanked the new and returning council leadership for 2024. He also shared his thanks to those leaders completing their service, as well as the amazing Central staff members.

Pastor Melissa closed the meeting with prayer and a benediction.

Adjournment

President Jeff Block adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Pat Hansen, recording for
Heidi Tysk-Poppe, Secretary*

President's Report



During Advent this past year, we reflected on the question, 'Where is God asking for your 'yes'?' Central is a vibrant embodiment of so many who have said 'yes' in their commitment to our faith community, and 2024 is a

testament to this.

In the first few months of 2024, the council spent time discerning the 1:1 conversations and feedback provided by Central members in 2023 that centered around belonging. As you may have read in the Winter 2023 edition of Centering, the council identified themes around our core values that led to the creation of three task forces:

- Connections, Invitation and Communications (ICC)
- Seasons of Life
- Mental Health and Wholeness

As these task forces prepare to start their work in 2025, we are grateful for those Central members who will be serving on each team. Their work will focus on the ministry within Central and supporting our downtown neighbors.

In 2024, the Choir Director Search Team hired Joe Osowski as the half-time choir director. Joe's gifts have been a blessing to Central, and alongside the choir, enhances our rich musical heritage.

In that vein, the Casavant Organ Committee continues its collaboration with the Richards Fowkes & Co. Organ Builders on the design of essential repairs to Central's organ. We anticipate holding meetings in the spring to share detailed plans and timelines for these repairs.

The Capital Appeal Team was formed in the Fall of 2024 to raise funds for the repairs of the organ as we seek to ensure that our music ministry continues to thrive for generations to come.

In November, the council had the opportunity to meet with Issac Drewes as he provided a history of the instrument and demonstrated the current problems.

If you have not had the opportunity to do so, I encourage you to view the videos created by Isaac and Russell Draeger, organ technician and consultant, to get a better sense of the inner workings of the organ and the problems we are experiencing.

Since its formation in 2024, the Sanctuary Renewal Team is starting the process of boiler replacement, and is in discussion to make needed repairs to the parking lot, and upgrade areas of the Sanctuary to meet ADA standards.

The Fiscal & Property Committee oversaw roof repairs, the completion of the lighting on the bell tower and the upgrade to a "tap & pay" technology at the parking lot kiosks which has greatly enhanced the guest experience when departing Central's parking lot. They will continue their work in 2025 in partnering with the Sanctuary Renewal Team.

2024 saw a continuation of the 9-to-Dine groups who continue to gather in homes and restaurants to build relationships within the Central community. It aligns with the verse from Acts 2:46, "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

As we enter in the 2025 church year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to three council members who are completing their 4-year terms on council:

- **Ann Oyen** – Member-at-large, for her insightful contributions through her volunteer work within the Central community.
- **Karl Starr** – Treasurer, for his invaluable guidance on Central's budget.
- **Jeff Block** – Member-at-large, for his leadership and wisdom.

It has been a blessing to serve as your council president this past year and I look forward to the work ahead in 2025. I am grateful to each member of the council for their wise discernment. I extend a heartfelt thanks to the Central leaders and staff for their

guidance, to the many volunteers and to you as members for saying 'yes' to the mission of Central Lutheran.

*Peace,
Rexanne Spicer*

2024 Church Statistics

We are well out of the Covid-19 isolation of 2020-2021, even if we now live with Covid-19 as a part of life. The statistics report will continue to provide a three-year snapshot for comparison.

Life Passages	Baptisms	Confirmations	Weddings	New Members	Funerals
2024/'23/'22	9/8/13	4/6/5	4/8/6	52/54/28	32/28/26

Worship*	Weekend In-person Average	Triduum In-person Total	Easter Weekend	Christmas Eve and Day
2024/2023/2022	438/384/350	650/684/675	1219/1252/1122	1563/1169/772

Children, Youth, and Adult Formation	Sunday School Enrollment	Confirmation Enrollment	High School	Adult Forum and Bible Study Combined Avg.
2024/2023/2022	30/30/22	15/20/15	18/14/12	95/93/91

Notes:

Life Passages show consistency for baptisms, confirmations, and weddings. Last year's new members are a blessing, once again. For last year's funerals please note that there were 25 funerals at Central. Of the 25 funerals at Central, one was for a non-member (friend of the congregation). The 7 members who died and did not have their funeral at Central had funerals at funeral homes or other locations.

The worship numbers reported above are for in-person. The online weekend worship average, based on the IP addresses for the live stream through the website and using the multiplier of 1.5 to consider households where two or more worship on the same IP address, was 236 for 2024. The combined in person and online weekend worship average for 2024 was 674. Pre-Covid the 2019 in person worship average, for comparison, was 543.

Finally, for Children, Youth and Adult Formation. It is fun to share that there are 18 children on the cradle roll currently, the newborn through age 3 age group.

2024 Historian's Report

January 2024

- Wednesday Bible Studies on the Gospel of Mark resume in person (AM) or in person/Zoom (PM) (1/10)
- 32 new members and 3 children welcomed (1/20-21)
- Rainbow Circle is launched with a gathering at The Loop West End (1/21)
- Organizing Training at the Mount Olivet Retreat Center (1/22-26)
- Winter Family Festival fun! (1/27)
- 2024 Budget meeting in person (1/28)

February 2024

- In the first quarter of each year, the OWLS planning team meets to discuss and plan activities for the upcoming year. Trips are discussed, plans are made and volunteers are scheduled for hosting sign-ups and registration.
- Winter Overnight Prayer Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo – Preparing for Lent (2/2-3)
- Annual Meeting – The congregation approves the 2024 Budget and the Nominating Committee's ballot for Leaders and Officers of the Congregation (2/11)
- Ash Wednesday Worship (2/14)
- Lenten Mid-week Worship offered in person or online. The Lenten theme was guided by prayer practice of the Daily Examen. Lenten devotional book written by members available in book form and emailed daily.
- Healing Prayer Service for Illness/Cancer (2/17)
- Lenten Prayer Stations (2/24-25) and Labyrinth (3/2-3) are offered
- Concordia College Choir and the Singers perform concert (2/25)

March 2024

- Carthage College Choir join Central Choir at 10:30 am worship (3/3)
- Central hosts NDSU Concert Choir/Madrigal Singers (3/17)
- Homeless Day on the Hill (3/20)
- Palm Sunday Weekend Worship with youth leading procession and intergenerational learning (3/23-24)

- Holy Week/Three Days/Easter Worship (3/28-31)
- Easter Vigil highlighted by two baptisms and desserts served by young adults
- Easter Garden continues its decades-old tradition of sanctuary flowers that are later delivered to homebound members; first Easter Garden in Columbarium

April 2024

- Wednesday Night Bible Study on resurrection stories begins (4/10)
- Healing Prayer Service for Loss of a Child (4/20)
- Central Cares for Creation hosts electronic waste recycling and document shredding (4/20-21)
- Annual Align Minneapolis furniture drive (4/27)
- Confirmation Weekend (4/28-4/29) – four Central youth affirm their baptisms

May 2024

- Former Centralite Pastor Jen Nagel is elected as the fourth bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod, attended by Central's rostered leaders and elected Voting Members (5/2-4)
- Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra Concert (5/12)
- Generosity Team celebrates Volunteer Appreciation Weekend (5/18-19)
- Central hosts Luther Seminary Commencement (5/26)

June 2024

- Fine Arts Ministry Team present art shared by Central Community members
- Graduate Recognition and Celebration (6/1-2)
- Adult Choirs pop-up during the summer (6/16, 7/21, 8/18)
- Central Booth at LGBTQ Pride Celebration (6/29-30)
- VBS "Parable of the Good Samaritan" dates set (6/23, 7/14 and 8/11)
- 17 new members welcomed (6/29-30)
- Summer Carillon concerts offered with favorite food trucks (6/30, 7/6, 7/14, 7/20, 8/4)
- Karen Knox celebrates 25 years at Central!

July 2024

- Central hosts GALA Chorus Festival (7/10-14)
- Summer Reads Book study, featuring Dr. Catherine Meek's *The Night is Long but Light Comes in the Morning*, begins 7/17, 24, 31
- Central High Schoolers head to New Orleans for the ELCA National Youth Gathering (7/16-21)
- Middle School students head to Amnicon to paddle the Namekagon (7/28-8/2)

August 2024

- Joe Osowski officially joins staff as the new Central Choir director.
- ELCA World Hunger celebrates 50 years! Pr. Melissa leads adult forum (8/11)
- Lutheran Night at the Twins (8/12)
- Happy hour for recent new members hosted by Generosity Team (8/14)
- The Church Picnic after 10:30 worship (8/25)
- MCC Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs leads Sacred Sites Tour (8/28)
- Central's YAGM, Britta Koenen and Sophie Warnberg, present Global Mission Forum (8/27)
- Blessings of the Backpacks (8/27)

September 2024

- Music Rehearsals begin – Central Choir (9/4) and Bell Choir (9/18)
- "Community through the Essentials" Rally Weekend (9/7-8) – Worship on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, with an intergenerational learning activity and fellowship between Sunday services.
- Pastor Peter celebrates 35 years of ministry! (9/7-9)
- Formation classes begin (9/15)
- YAGMs Abigail Swigerd and Simon Miller, share their experiences (9/15)
- Fine Arts Ministry Team introduces new show by CA artist, John August Swanson (9/21)
- Central hosts Bishop Jen Nagel's installation (9/21)
- Caring Crew jumpstarts (9/22)
- Carl and Joy Follingstad present Wycliffe Bible updates after 10:30 am worship (9/29)

October 2024

- Congregation Council creates three strategic plan task forces
- New 9-to-Dine groups formed and each begin setting up three gatherings through June 2025
- Wednesday Night Bible Study resumes in person or on Zoom, focusing on "Community through the Essentials" (10/2)

- CLC Foundation presents End of Life Forums (10/13, 10/27, 11/3)
- Global Mission Weekend with Rev. Franklin Ishida preaching (10/19-20)
- Healing Prayer Service for Dementia and Caregivers (10/26)
- Augsburg Central Health Commons offers flu shots (10/28)

November 2024

- All Saints' Weekend with Central Choir singing Faure's Requiem at 10:30 am worship (11/2-4)
- Organ Scholar Henry Rye presents recital (11/3)
- Sabbath to End Homelessness with worship including StreetSong MN and adult forum with Street Voices of Change (11/9-11)
- Fall Prayer Retreat "Essentials for Prayer" with Pastors Kathie and Peter Nycklemoe leading (11/10)
- First Communion class held (11/23)
- Fall Generosity Appeal: Essential Gratitude
- In-Gathering Weekend (11/23-24)
- MSO Concert: "Expressions of Unity" (11/24)
- Community Thanksgiving Meal served (11/25)
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist (11/28)

December 2024

- The season of Advent "God's Song, Mary's Song, Our Song" with devotional words and images in emails, booklet and forums
- Fine Arts Ministry Team presents new exhibit for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany
- Annual Advent Fair – intergenerational learning experienced the magic of this season of hope and expectation, with a focus on angels (12/1)
- Augsburg Advent Vespers (12/6-7)
- OWLS annual Christmas Luncheon (12/10)
- Conspirare Christmas Concert (12/11)
- Homeless Memorial March & Service (12/12)
- Blue Christmas Healing Prayer Service (12/14)
- Community Christmas Worship and Meal (12/16)
- Sunday School Christmas Program (12/22)
- Christmas Eve services at 3 pm and 10:30 pm; Christmas Day has one service at 10 am
- Lessons and Carols Worship at 5 pm and 10 am (12/28-29)

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe



"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience... And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." Colossians 3: 12, 15

In these few verses from the letter to the Colossians we are invited into some significant essentials for a life of faith. The writer begins by naming that you are chosen by God. You are holy and beloved. There may be other voices that try to tell you that you are not enough, but Jesus continually speaks the centering words that you are chosen, holy and beloved. The writer then invites us to wrap ourselves in the essentials of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, the peace of Christ and thanksgiving.

There is an abundance here for us. It is a vision for our individual lives and for our shared life together as the body of Christ. When I reflect on this past year here at Central Lutheran Church, I see this vision alive in your life and in our life together. I am deeply thankful.

Thank you to each of you

Thank you to each of you for your faithfulness, generosity and all the ways you clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Thank you for your worship, the engagement in study and formation, for the tireless care for the marginalized and the willingness to share your time, talent and treasure. You clothe yourselves and share here as a part of this faith community and in all the moments of your daily life.

Thank you to those who serve in leadership

Thank you to all who serve in leadership on

the Council, Personnel Committee, Fiscal and Property Committee, Audit Committee, Nominating Committee, Synod Assembly Voting Member, Generosity Team, Global Mission Team, Belonging Team and Prayer Team. Thank you to all who plan, prepare and lead worship. Thank you for Sunday School teachers, confirmation and high school mentors, book group leaders, for circles and 9-to-dine groups. Thank you to all who serve in and through the Restoration Center, week in and week out. Thank you to all who count the weekly offering, help decorate, serve on Fine Arts, C3 Team, Garden Team, Caring Crew, OWLS planning, Funeral Ministry Team, sing in choir, ring handbells, usher, welcome as a Great Room Ambassador and serve on the Central Lutheran Church Foundation Board. I know that I will miss naming a group, committee or team, so I say thank you all.

Thank you for the newly formed task forces

Thank you to all who said yes to the invitation to serve on one of the newly formed strategic task forces launched by the Council. I have the privilege of serving with those on the Information, Communication and Connection Task Force: Abigail Pribbenow, chair; Karen Snyder, Ken Hardy, Judith Hedman, Katie Brenke, Jim Hart, Sara Klomp, Brenda Blackhawk and Karen Knox. I also get to serve with these talented folks on the Capital Appeal Committee: Ron and Kathy Fiscus, John Severtson, PJ Ritters, Seth and Chris Peter, Hugh Magill and Sara Masters.

Thank you to pastoral and staff colleagues

Words cannot fully express my gratitude for the gifts, commitment and care of the pastors and staff of Central Lutheran. You may not be aware that we have worked together now for over ten years as a pastoral and staff team.

Some of the staff have served for over 25 years and some are new, each person brings their gifts to serve God with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. It is rare that pastoral and staff teams work so well together, week in and week out, and so I give thanks to God for the staff life you have called us to as a congregation.

Thank you to the Casavant Committee and Sanctuary Renewal Team Members

You can read more about the work of the Casavant Committee in Isaac's report. With the design work now complete it is time to turn our attention to the needed restoration of the Casavant organ. Over the next months there will be several information sessions and communication in preparation for a congregational meeting this spring. We will vote on the project and the launch of the capital appeal. We will need to secure a loan for working capital while capital appeal gifts are received to fund the project. Together we have tended many critical needs so that we can fully live into the ministry and mission God calls us to here on this corner of the world. It is time for us to turn our shared attention to the restoration of the Casavant, a gift to us from a previous generation. For our part, we will tend this need and pass it on to the next generation to lead worship, ground in faith and inspire care for those in need and on the margins. The Casavant organ leads our song so that we can welcome all, no exceptions.

It is a privilege to serve as one of your pastors. I give thanks to God for you, your faithfulness and all the ways you clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, the peace of Christ and thankfulness.

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe

Pastor Stephanie Friesen



“To be your presence is our mission here” are the words that begin one of my favorite hymns in the red hymnal. As I think about our life together at Central, this hymn expresses the very essence of who we are. Reflecting on 2024, here

are a few highlights from the formation and care ministry cluster.

On January 24, the year started with a winter festival for youth and families. Thanks to Dave Rodriguez and his amazing imagination for a giant bouncy house in the great room, we created a grand play space with music, balloon animals, face painting, a DJ, and yes, a big red bouncy house for kids to bounce to their heart’s content. We rounded out the morning with chicken nuggets and mac and cheese and we played indoors on a cold January day. The day was such a big hit that we are repeating it this year.

The winter months were highlighted by adult learning in Bible studies, forums, and Empowering Conversations. During Lent, we explored the practice of the Examen – a spiritual prayer practice guided by five principles including an awareness of God’s presence, a daily review with gratitude, an awareness of one’s emotion, awareness of an emerging prayer and a look to the day ahead. Following Easter, our Bible study’s focus was on the beautiful stories of Jesus’ resurrection. Empowering Conversations highlighted each month with focused learning on becoming One Community in Christ with speakers who shared insights on intergeneration learning, adolescent and youth mental health and learning and understanding culture.

In late spring, the congregation celebrated five middle school students as they affirmed their faith in the celebration of Confirmation. It was a wonderful weekend as the kids claimed baptismal promises as their own and

took the next steps in their lives of faith. Their faith statements were powerful reminders of the ways in which God is at work in their lives and the ways in which the church has a hand in forming them as God’s people.

With a keen eye for fun and an expansive understanding of God’s work in the world, Kari Colchin led the summer VBS program. Each month kids learned about the ways in which God is at work in faraway places. We learned about different cultures, tried foods from around the world and talked about the many different places God is at work in and through people everywhere. We learned about places like Malawi, Japan, and Columbia. It was a great summer for our Sunday school kids to learn about places around the world.

In addition to VBS, nine middle school kids spent a week at Amnicon – a Central favorite. Jack Friesen accompanied the guides from Amnicon on a slow paddle down the Namekagon where kids shared adventures and responsibilities in the river and on her banks. Starting and ending each day with God’s word and presence, the students found ways to connect with God and one another in the beauty of the natural environment. Everyone on the trip is excited to return!

The high school youth spent a week in the Big Easy – New Orleans – at the ELCA National Youth Gathering in July. After postponing the Gathering for three years (because of Covid), youth leaders from around the country brought 17,000 students and adults together to explore and serve the city, to experience remarkable speakers and music, and to experience God’s presence in a mass gathering at the Smoothie King Center. The size of the event is a sight to behold, and Central’s kids loved every minute learning to be brave, authentic, free, disciples and disruptive. Heartfelt thanks to Larye Pohlman and Eric & Kari Colchin for their leadership!

In other small groups, the Central Book Club met from September through May with Carol Rieger and Cathy Fuller coordinating meetings and get-togethers. We read a variety of genres and engaged in lively conversations about everything from Hildegard of Bingen to basketball. Whatever the topic, a consistent group of 12 to 18 enjoyed coffee, cookies and great conversations about best sellers and local authors.

The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) continue outings each month thanks to a generous gift left to the church for senior ministry. We traveled this year to places like Red Wing to tour the Pottery Museum, Osceola, Wis. to ride the train and Hudson, Wis. for a beautiful ride on the St. Croix. As I was walking Marlys Johnson to the boat in Hudson, I asked if she could swim (just in case) and I learned that she taught swimming lessons in her younger years. The OWLS trips are always fun and we continue to learn new things about each other every time we venture out together.

In the Fall, we launched a new program year using the theme Community through the Essentials. Together, we are exploring the essential elements of faith and scripture. In bible study, we've opened essential Hebrew scripture, the essential stories of Mary and we are headed into the essential stories of Jesus and the New Testament this winter. In Adult Forums, we are talking about things like essential elements of faith including forgiveness, gratitude, music and Lutheran traditions.

The Caring Crew relaunched in late November. The Crew visited over 50 members in their homes bringing stained-glass ornaments that recipients can hang in their windows all year to remind them of how much they are loved by the congregation here at church. The ornaments are also reminders of the beautiful stained-glass windows here at church. The stories

of compassion and connection were breathtaking.

And finally, sprinkled in and among all these essential elements of our life together, and with the help of Michael Dee, we received and tended calls for baptisms, weddings, funerals and pastoral care. I am so grateful for the team of volunteers who make sure these life passage events are handled with such great consideration and care. Pastoral Care is a team sport, and we are blessed by the great ministry of Pastor Brian Gutzmann and the Rev. Dr. Judith Stone.

As 2025 begins, I will begin work with the Seasons of Life Team which is part of the congregation council's mission to imagine what's next for Central Lutheran. This team's goal is to explore the generational needs of those who call Central their church home. We will be looking at programs, activities and ministry opportunities for the future and listening for God's call to follow Jesus.

To be God's presence is our mission here. We continue to teach, connect and care for our neighbors in the spirit of Jesus who taught us so well, and I am beyond grateful that we get to do this work together.

*Peace,
Pastor Stephanie Friesen*

Pastor Melissa Pohlman



2024 felt very much like everyday we were living into the future through each present moment. Often when it comes to folks living in recovery they use the language of “one day at a time,” to talk about how they persist with

staying clean and dry. We got through 2024 “one day at a time.” Not all the days were awful and not all the days were amazing, and yet each day and moment was a gift to us from a good and loving creator. God gives us one another as gifts. We are each other’s caregivers and encouragers and beacon lights on the way home. We have one another here for a short time, and we are called to show up and be present and care and be cared for.

In my little part of the ministry you all engage with at Central we cared for one another this year when we showed up in moments of absolute crisis. This summer we had weekend after weekend of people who were having the worst mental health moment of their lives who ended up with us at Central. We got them the help they needed or we helped them de-escalate and we knew it wasn’t enough. Through so many 1 to 1 conversations and educational offerings and feedback sessions the council came to understand that the conversation about mental health was one that needed to happen at Central. The Mental Health and Wholeness task force was affirmed at the December council meeting and will begin their work in February.

I need to thank the people who do so much of the daily work at Central to make sure people are safe, fed, housed, clothed and get to experience a little bit of beauty. I am thankful this year for Dwayne and Dorothy who make sure people experience a joyful welcome to a space where they are treated with dignity and respect and when folks cannot respond in kind to that welcome, then they are invited to try another day. They

work closely with the Free Store Volunteers and the volunteers in the Health Commons to make sure everyone gets what they need. Dr. Katie Clark and her crew in the Health Commons gave out thousands of diapers this year and thousands of pairs of socks. The Free Store volunteers are amazing worker bees who process the thousands of pounds of your donations so that other people can be clothed and can cook on the items that others have passed on to be sure everyone gets what they need. That includes financial assistance in the form of Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA). The ERA volunteers this year helped assist 132 families with rental assistance that kept them from experiencing homelessness. They were a part of redistributing \$204,010 to families that needed that assistance to stay in their homes. I thank Karen for the way she shepherds our ERA intake volunteers and the folks who walk through our doors in crisis.

I am thankful for Mark and Sherry and Lorraine and all the kitchen volunteers who make sure we get to share a meal on Mondays and Sunday. They make sure our insatiable need for coffee is always met and the cookies are baked. They make sure all of that gets cleaned up too! They help lead the scores of volunteers who cook and serve the Monday meal. They also help our Funeral Reception Team pull off beautiful meals for families who just said their final goodbyes to their loved ones. That team is led by Dean and Christopher, as David, who had been the co-chair was diagnosed and died from cancer this year. The meal after David’s service was perfect. If you are eating or drinking at Central odds are the kitchen staff and volunteers had something to do with it.

For beauty I get to come alongside two teams that devote themselves to the things of God’s gorgeousness. This year, the Garden Team did a beautiful job of providing what the weather did and did not give. Some weeks early in the spring we had too much rain and then for weeks in the fall we had

no precipitation. They were always present making sure the beautiful plants they nurtured would survive the conditions.

Also, the Fine Arts Ministry Team expanded their choices for beauty with a show that highlighted the works of art that were hanging in their homes or that Central community members wanted to share with the wider community. That show was a great hit as people got to share what they loved and others got to know people better through the art they love.

A big part of our ability to take one day at a time comes from the full understanding that we are also working on big and long term solutions to the every day problems of people who do not have a home and the impending climate collapse we see all around us. This year we saw a lot of growth in the interest and impact of our advocacy and organizing groups. Those are the Central Cares for Creation (C3) Team, the Align Central Team and Street Voices of Change. We did not have significant wins in the 2024 legislative session, but we did grow our base in each one of these groups. We educated ourselves and others on the impacts of current legislation and waited patiently (or not) for the implementation of the bills we helped pass in the historic 2023 session. This year we saw people who receive General Assistance as their only income receive \$350 a month to live on instead of \$203 a month which had been the monthly assistance since the 1980s. These wins were brought to you by direct action organizing. We train people every January in the Midwest Academy model of community organizing that emphasizes relationship and strategy in order to win concrete improvements in people's lives. That is good and hard and long work that we do.

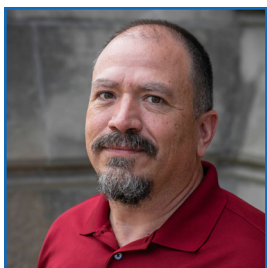
Finally this year was a year of hard losses in our community bucket community. Beloved volunteers like David and Kathy and Anita and Lois and Chez are not simply replaced

in the schedule. They are people who had their own special gift to share with our community and we remember them with what seems like silly things like the color of the napkins and the difference between a full sized sheet and a queen sized one. We also mourned the deaths of so many of our long time community members. Mike and Mercedes and Angelo and Daniel and Mikey also brought their own special gifts to our community and we miss their hijinks and humility and beautiful singing voices.

So we give it all back to 2024 knowing that we did the best we could with a year that held one surprise after the next, and we trust that the Holy Spirit is not done with us yet. We look forward to the challenges and joys of 2025 together.

*Shalom,
Pastor Melissa*

Facilities Report



At the beginning of each year, I enjoy looking back on all the ways we have improved the facility during the previous year. Two projects that stand out for me are the bell tower lighting repair project, and the ongoing roof replacement

project. While both projects were the result of natural occurrences (a lightning strike and a hailstorm, respectively), they provided us with an opportunity to ensure that these parts of the facility are taken care of for the long term.

We are blessed to be able to focus on the future of the facility and set up our future selves to continue our good work. I am thankful for your generosity, as it affords us the opportunity to keep our eyes on the future. And this year, we will do just that.

The Sanctuary Renewal Task Force has some amazing things planned. Alongside the organ renovation project, we will replace our old boilers, and the aging heat pipes in the boiler room. This will give us the ability to use high-efficiency boilers, which will also take the place of our two large water heaters and be more environmentally conscious.

We will also be taking care of some regular maintenance items, including resurfacing and restriping the parking lot, and completing some tuck pointing on our historic sanctuary. While these behind-the-scenes maintenance projects aren't flashy, they are important tasks we need to do to ensure we will stay in a good place for the future. (They also help me sleep at night.)

We are also planning some projects that are more visible, including giving a long overdue refresh to the sacristy. It will be great to set that space up in a way that accommodates all the services, concerts, and special events we host every year. Also, it has been a longtime goal to make the sanctuary chancel ADA-accessible, and that project is another step we can take to ensure inclusivity throughout our facility.

I feel fortunate to be at Central, surrounded by amazing people in a facility that means so much to us. It feels humbling that, through these projects we do year after year, future generations will have the opportunity to sit in a sanctuary that is at a comfortable temperature, listening to an amazing performance played on the phenomenal organ, or taking communion from our well-designed sacristy in a safe and secure facility where all are welcome. This will all be possible because of the thoughtfulness and generosity of all you wonderful people.

Thank you all for all you do to help keep this special place incredible.

Dave Rodriguez
Director of Facilities

Security Report



Looking back at 2024, it has really gone fast. The Free Store and Augsburg Central Health Commons have been extremely busy. We are averaging about 800 guests per month. Soon the Minneapolis Convention Center will be

ramping up for events, so if you come to church during one of the busy times and notice the flat lot is full, fill free to park in one of the staff spots inside the parking ramp. If there is an orange cone in the staff spot, move them because we reserve them for you and staff.

Dave Rodriguez and I will also be working the parking lot on Sundays to make sure everything goes smoothly when its busy at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

This past year as a staff we had our emergency procedures for fire, severe weather, and security. This year we will be getting new cameras for the interior of the church, sanctuary, and exterior of the church. We will also be taking CPR renewal and recertification. I would like to give special thanks to Security Specialist Dorothy Phifer, parking lot volunteers, Free Store volunteers, Monday meal volunteers, Dr. Katie Clark, and her team of nurses, and to my staff colleagues. Thanks be to God, and thanks be to all!

*Dwayne Wright
Director of Security*

Food Service Report



2024 was a good year in the kitchen. Some of the highlights were finding compostable products to replace the non-compostable products that we use here at Central, which I am happy to say is around 90% of what we use in the kitchen.

Another exciting thing that happened was that the kitchen was given a wonderful donation. Some of the things we were able to buy with the donation was a new Ice Machine, much needed pots and pans (they were in bad condition), and some utensils, such as spoons, knives, tongs, spatulas, etc.

I moved forward with training for Sherry and Lorraine. Both are doing well.

Numbers for the meals that were served

(Sundays, Mondays, and breakfast on Thursdays) have stayed the same in 2024. I must point out all the wonderful volunteers at Central, from funerals to Sunday and Monday meals. Thanks to each one of you!

Looking forward to another great year in 2025.

*God bless,
Mark Carroll
Food Service Coordinator*

Communications Report



2024 was a great year for communications at Central. In addition to all the regular, everyday work this role entails, most of the year was spent working on the new website. With the help of the Website Redesign Team

(thank you to Boyd Savage, Chloe Hjerpe, Joe Shelton, and Karen Knox!), we settled on important design elements, prepared content and photos, and worked with the website builder. The website is in the late stages of development at this point, and we hope for it to be live in the next month or so. After the website is live, we will be wanting your feedback to make final adjustments, so look out for opportunities to engage with us about the website!

In addition to the website, 2024 marked the beginning of the Invitation, Connection, and Communications Task Force. I look forward to continuing this work with this group in 2025.

The end of 2024 marked the end of Feature Friday on our social media accounts after a couple of very successful years. Our social media will continue to be active in 2025 with new opportunities to engage.

I'm so grateful to work at Central and especially for the support of the pastors and staff. It is such a blessing to be able to keep doing God's work together in this place!

*With much gratitude,
Brenda Blackhawk
Director of Communications*

Music Report



2024 was an eventful year for music at Central. We have had many new participants in music ministries such as choir, bells, and Saturday song leaders. Over the course of the year, the Central Lutheran music department

has transitioned out of the interim time, and into its next chapter. Joe Osowski began in his permanent role as Choir Director last August. Marilyn Wahlstrom concluded her time as Interim Bell Director in December. The newly established Organ Scholar position continues to provide valuable hands-on experience for Henry Rye, our Organ Scholar. It is an exciting time in the musical life of this congregation as we look forward to the possibilities that lie ahead.

A musical highlight of the year was the Fauré Requiem, which was offered on All Saints

Sunday by the Central Choir and musicians of the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra. We also had great success with several pop-up choirs. Both the Fauré Requiem and the pop-up choirs served as opportunities for folks to sing in choir for a shorter period of time, without committing to the full season.

Joe Osowski served as Interim Choir Director during the first half of the year, through May. During that time, the Choir Director Search Committee received applications for the permanent position. We had a very positive response. In May and June, the committee conducted two rounds of interviews with candidates. After careful consideration, Joe Osowski was offered the position, and accepted. This was a competitive application process, and all candidates received equal consideration. Joe began working in his permanent position in August, and has been doing a fantastic job.

For 2024, the bell choir was under the capable leadership of Interim Bell Director Marilyn Wahlstrom. Her interim directorship concluded on Christmas Eve, 2024. She did fantastic work teaching and getting new folks involved. We are grateful to her for her ministry. Going forward, I will be directing the Bell Choir, which will continue to rehearse Wednesday nights at 6 pm.

The Saturday night worship service offers a more contemplative worship experience. Tim Short served as our Interim Saturday Worship Pianist/Organist for the last year and a half. October was his last month in this capacity, though we will continue to see him at Central as a carillonneur and substitute musician. We are grateful for the musical leadership that he has provided for the Saturday night service. In the beginning of 2025, we will start our search process for the Saturday Night Worship Musician. In the meantime, I am serving as the musician for that service. It has been lovely to reconnect with the Saturday night crowd.

Henry Rye, now a Junior at St. Olaf College, continues as our Organ Scholar. This is a

pedagogical position designed to prepare aspiring organists for their vocation in church music. Henry assists in service playing, learning valuable skills such as hymn playing, improvisation, keyboard skills, and choral accompaniment. This sort of hands-on experience is an essential part of any organist's education, in addition to their institutional training.

As we look to 2025, consider how you might be involved in music at Central. Perhaps it is showing up and singing the hymns as a congregation member. Perhaps it is through participating in choir or bells. If committing to an entire program year is too much, consider singing on a summer pop-up choir date. As Paul writes in his epistle to the Colossians: "With gratitude in your hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. And whatever you do, do it in the name of Jesus." I am grateful each and every day to sing God's song together in this church.

Isaac Drewes
Director of Music and Principal Organist

Choir Report



Dear members of Central Lutheran's congregation, staff, and choir,

As we reflect on this past year, it is with heartfelt gratitude that I write to celebrate the Central Choir's accomplishments and extend

thanks to each of you for your unwavering support. This fall the Central Choir and members of the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra prepared Gabriel Faure's Requiem for All Saints Service. During the Christmas season, Central Lutheran Church was able to host the Grammy winning choral ensemble

Conspirare as they shared their Christmas Concert in Minnesota for the first time. This spring, the Central Choir has been invited to perform with other local Church Choirs at the Cathedral of St. Paul with internationally celebrated conductor and composer Sir James MacMillan. Central will also be welcoming the Augustana Choir in March.

To our choir members, your dedication to excellence and passion for music have been nothing short of inspiring. Week after week, you have devoted your time and talents to bring meaningful, spirit-filled worship experiences to our congregation. I will forever be grateful for you.

Choir Report cont.

To the staff, thank you for your invaluable support behind the scenes. From scheduling to setup, your efforts have ensured that every rehearsal and musical offering ran smoothly. Your work may often go unseen, but it is deeply appreciated and essential to our success.

To our congregation, your encouragement fuels our mission. Whether through your kind words, attentive listening, or enthusiastic participation, you remind us why we sing. Your presence lifts us and connects us to the larger purpose of our ministry.

This year has brought countless highlights, and many incredible opportunities are on the horizon. Together, we've not only made music but also built connections that deepen our faith and strengthen our Church family.

As we look ahead, I am excited about what we can accomplish together. Thank you for being part of this journey. May the year to come bring new opportunities to glorify God through music.

*With gratitude,
Joe Osowski
Central Choir Director*

Casavant Organ Report

During the past year, the team at Richards, Fowkes, and Company have been hard at work putting together the designs for the organ project. This includes new windchests, and a new console and electrical system. They have made numerous visits to our church to collect measurements and discuss designs. Russell (our organ technician) and I have been actively involved in the design as well; it has been a truly collaborative project. At time of writing (mid-January '25), design work is nearly finished. This includes detailed 3D computer renderings of the organ, console, and the chancel area. Frontloading the design work allows us to anticipate problems, and likely reduce the amount of change orders during construction. This makes the project take longer, but should also result in a better finished product.

The organ itself has experienced significant issues throughout 2024. During the winter months (January-March, and December), we experienced the usual dead notes, and in extreme conditions, ciphers as well. In the summer, we began experiencing separate electrical issues, which persist. With both of

these combined, about 25% of the organ does not work. Keep in mind that most of these issues are either dead notes, or misbehaving parts of the organ that have been deliberately silenced, so their absence is not always readily apparent from the pews. Russell and I have produced a series of educational videos about how our organ works, what goes on "under the hood," and the issues that we are having. In particular, the video titled "Organ Issues and Proposed Solutions" clearly demonstrates these problems. View them on Central's website: www.centralmpls.org/worship/music/.

The next step will be for the congregation to approve the production contract at a special congregational meeting. Once this is done, we expect the construction to take multiple years. Though this will be a heavy lift, it is an important investment in the worshipping life of our congregation, and future generations of music ministry here at Central.

*Isaac Drewes
Director of Music and Principal Organist*

Generosity Ministry Team Report

The Generosity Ministry Team began 2024 by learning about the failing organ and ideas for other needed improvements to the sanctuary and building. At each meeting throughout the year, the team members made suggestions about the process and learned about options for a capital appeal in 2025 to fund the upgrades.

In past years, the team, with the help of Central's creative staff, sent Valentine's to our members reminding all that God is love and we are his beloved children. In 2024, Ash Wednesday fell on February 14, so we made other plans. To end the program year, the Team decided to host a Thank you/Gratitude Weekend on Pentecost, May 18-19-20 using Galatians 5:25 and fruits of the spirit as our theme. The team gathered to assemble goodie bags with cards based on Central's 2023-24 program theme of One Community. "Giving thanks for One Community and your gifts" packages were distributed at all services.

During the summer months we met to prepare for two annual events: the summer new member happy hour and the Fall generosity appeal. On Wednesday, August 14, the team hosted approximately 50 new members and congregational leaders, again using Central's annual theme "Get to Know Our One Community." We chose to go back to traditional Lutheran roots by serving tuna noodle hot dish. The team and members of the Congregation Council brought Jello salads and desserts. Central church trivia was shared for a group engagement activity. This annual fun evening welcomes and invites new members to learn more about Central and to get connected with each other and our worship, faith formation and community ministries. They hear about how our congregation excels in generous acts within Central's programming and in our daily lives. Generosity and gratitude are part of our culture at Central.

Our Fall annual appeal theme was grounded in Central's 2024-25 program year invitation for "Community through Essentials" using Colossians, chapter 3. Throughout the month, weekly devotions were shared on Wednesdays

and temple talks were given by members of the Generosity Team. Team members pitched in during November to assist. For the second year, many members took advantage of the opportunity to download the stewardship package, saving Central resources and eliminating many reams of paper from the landfill. Stewardship packets were distributed to those wishing to have a hard copy rather than downloading the packet from their own computers. During four weeks in November, we were all invited to reflect on the essentials of gratitude in our lives and how that shapes faith and all that we do "in word or deed." Decorated cornucopias at the altar rail were used as physical reminders to give thanks during communion. On the first weekend, All Saint's Weekend, we placed the names of loved ones in the vessels. For Sabbath to End Homelessness, worshippers brought gift cards for the Restoration Center to bless those in need. The weekend before the ingathering, we wrote what we were grateful for and placed them in the cornucopias. Finally, at the Generosity Ingathering services, November 23-24, we placed our faith promises and financial intention cards in the cornucopias.

With deepest thanksgiving to many in the faith community who generously responded to God's love and the invitation to join in funding our missions for 2025. Faith promises and changes in your electronic giving are welcomed by contacting the Finance Office. Each gift is important, and your faithfulness is a blessing.

A huge thank you and big note of appreciation to the members of the Generosity Team who invest their time, talents, enthusiasm, creativity, can-do spirit and energy into our six meetings and the various activities in 2024: Ken Hardy, Tom Edelen, Deb Bauknight, Steve and Chris Dahlberg, Seth Peter, John Severtson, and Ron Fiscus. We are grateful for the leadership and inspiration Pastor Peter, as well as Pastor Stephanie, Pastor Melissa and Central's staff, provide to us and our congregation.

Kathy Fiscus

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Minneapolis Area Synod
of the ELCA

On the evening of Jesus' resurrection, as two of his followers were walking along the road that leads from the city of Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus "talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them." - Luke 24



Grace and peace to you, beloved of Christ Jesus.

This resurrection story is a favorite. We walk together as church, and Jesus draws near and walks with us. The labors of the day, the content of our discussions, the swirl of society and politics, the hopes and fears, these things shift, and yet, Jesus walks with us and is known once again as we gather together around the table.

What a year this has been. This report to the worshipping communities of the Minneapolis Area Synod is an opportunity to look back on 2024, and to look ahead at the year to come. Most of all, it is an opportunity to name and celebrate some of the ways the Holy Spirit continues to enliven God's church. We give thanks to you and your congregation for your partnership in this ministry we share.

On May 4, 2024, you elected me to serve as your Bishop. On August 1, 2024, I took office, and on September 21, 2024, I was installed during a festive and moving worship service at Central Lutheran Church. This election represents a significant threshold in our synod's life as we continue by the Spirit's leading along paths yet unknown. Thank you for your trust and your continued prayers. We are particularly grateful for the intentional work of the Bishop's Election Committee. My deep thanks to Bishop Ann Svennungsen for her 12 years of faithful leadership, and for her generosity of wisdom and spirit as I learn the ropes. As I have restructured parts of our synod's ministry team, we have had several staff transitions. Some have completed their service, over the summer and fall we welcomed a few new staff, and in 2025 we will welcome more. Thank you to our staff for their patience, perseverance, faithful ministry, and good courage during a long transition.

Stepping into this role, I am more mindful than ever that we are **Church Together:**
Learning Together, Listening Together, Serving Together, Worshipping Together.

A few highlights from 2024



- 137** worshipping communities, including
 - 3** new starts
 - 8** congregational strategic ministries
- 3** congregations marked Holy Closures this year, honoring their years and ministry, and in closing, stewarded their assets by contributing to the Resurrection Fund.
- 11** languages spoken in worship



- 62** call processes in **55** congregations
- 8** ordinations of new pastors and deacons and **24** rostered ministers installed into new positions
- 34** people discerning a call to ministry and active in our candidacy process
- 305** pastors and deacons currently serving in our synod, and around **370** retired ministers
- 52** pastors and deacons serving in specialized ministries, including chaplains, educators, social ministry leaders, and missionaries



- 5** years of Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices cohorts supported by a grant from the Lilly Endowment's Thriving Congregations Initiative, with plans to apply for a scaling grant in 2025
- 17** congregations in the current cohort of Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices, and **13** in the first cohort (that's nearly 1/4 of our synod's congregations!)
- \$1.25 million** grant received from the Lilly Endowment for Family Faith – a project accompanying parents and caretakers from the Synod's new and strategic ministries. Watch for more details coming soon!



- 800** people attended the Bishop Installation in person, including **220** clergy
- \$2,681,409** pledged in Mission Support, with **50%** supporting MAS ministry and **50%** for ELCA ministry
- 2** companion synod partnerships: Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) and the Leipzig District-Evangelical Lutheran Church in Saxony, Germany, including visits from Archbishop Musa Filibus (LCCN), Superintendent Sebastian Feydt and Pastor Cristoph Reichl (Leipzig)



Synod staff supported leaders and congregations, convening, communicating, collaborating, and navigating conflicts

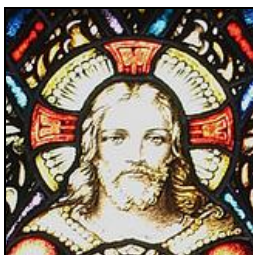
Hosted many special events such as an Eco Faith Summit, Boundaries Workshop, Bishop's Theological Conference, Ministeriums, and Communicators Gatherings



What a gift to reflect on the amazing ways we were Church Together in 2024! We look forward to 2025 with the Conference Assemblies in February, Synod Assembly (May 2 - 3), and the ELCA Churchwide Assembly (July 28 - August 2). We walk together as church, trusting that Jesus continues to come near and walk with us. We are Church Together. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Bishop Jen Nagel

Columbarium Report



Central Lutheran Columbarium Association

COLUMBARIUM ASSOCIATION BOARD

Joyce Anderson
Christopher Haug
Bill Masche
Mark Peterson
Les Rosecke
Karl Starr
David West



December 31, 2024

Columbarium Association Annual Report

We appreciate this opportunity to provide an update on the activities of the CLC Columbarium Association during 2024 for the Central Lutheran Church congregation. December 2024 marked the 10-year anniversary of the dedication of the CLC Columbarium. This milestone has been an impetus for us to focus on the completion of the room. We look forward to the installation of the third wall at the end of January by Eickhof Columbaria. The ceiling lighting has been updated with small LED lights, which are more appropriate for the room. Wallpaper will be placed on wall areas not covered by the niches. Furniture has been ordered, and new flooring will complete this phase. Our goal is for substantial completion by Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025.

We encourage you to visit the Columbarium. If you are interested in becoming a part of this special community, you may view information on policies, procedures, and pricing on Central's website—centralmpls.org. Columbarium Board members, Pastor Peter Nycklemoe, and Michael Acuña Dee are eager to visit with you and answer your questions. If cremation is not an option for you, we have several gravesites for sale in three NE Minneapolis cemeteries which are available for 50 percent of the current market rate. Please contact Michael Acuña Dee or Joyce Anderson for further information.

The care and support we experience by our beloved Central Lutheran Church in life continues in our death as our bodies rest in the Columbarium. This place provides a dignified, elegant, and peaceful resting place in the care of the church.

Columbarium Milestones

2014	Founding resolution; First wall construction and dedication.
2015	Established as stand-alone account; first entombment.
2021	Second wall construction and expansion dedication.
2022	LED lighting, motion detectors, and sconces added.
306	Number of total niches in Columbarium
84	Number of niches reserved in total as of December 31, 2024
10	Number of entombments in this calendar year (since January 1, 2024)
72	Number of entombments in total as of December 31, 2024

Entombments in this program year

...We look for the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. Amen.

These bodies have been taken into the care of the Church until the Day of Resurrection:

+ Caroline Kilgore Dillon	+ Michael Richard Freeman
+ Kathleen Anne Otis	+ Anita Helen Lyle
+ Brian Alan McKinley	+ Lois Camille Wolff
+ Randall Wade Holm	+ Joel Martin Oyen
+ Bruce Edward Ellingson	+ Louise B. Griffin

Financial Statement – CLC Columbarium Association

Opening Balance	\$40,450.31
Niche Purchases	+\$29,800.00
Gifts	+\$12,900.91
Other Expenses	-\$33,828.37
Closing Balance on 12/31/2024	\$49,322.85

Respectfully Submitted,
Joyce Anderson and Michael Acuña Dee
For the CLC Columbarium Association

Align End-of-year Letter



Align Minneapolis extends a note of huge appreciation for all of the ways Central Lutheran supports our organization. Your generous, steadfast support helped Align deepen our important work to inspire and educate our community, organize for meaningful change across the housing spectrum, coordinate direct services for our neighbors experiencing homelessness and housing instability, and partner with people with lived experience of homelessness.

Our congregational organizing work in 2024 included presentations and conversations about homelessness at member congregations, publishing three seasonal guides focused on aspects of homelessness, and publishing a monthly newsletter that provided timely updates and education to over 950 subscribers. Nine congregations and people with lived experience, totaling over 40 people connected with Align, participated in Homeless Day on the Hill and multiple congregations received advocacy training. The Align Organizing team continued to bring the work of Align into their congregations through goods drives, book studies, volunteering and advocacy work.

In 2024, Street Voices of Change continued their important work of building community and working for change. They began training shelter staff on the Shelter Resident's Bill of Rights and worked toward a state-level standard for shelter. Street Voices members undertook extensive learning about improving their health including managing chronic health conditions and nutrition. Street Voices members spoke at multiple venues including congregations and leadership trainings, and presented along with Align Minneapolis at the annual Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless Conference. Street Voices continued to provide valuable input and feedback to the homeless response system and ensure the voices people with lived experience were heard.

Align's Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program provided direct assistance in 2024 to 132 households experiencing a short-term financial crisis to get them caught up on back-due rent so they could remain in their homes and avoid homelessness. 91 households were single adult or adult-only households, 41 were family households with minor children (total of 71 children). A total of \$204,010 in direct assistance was provided, with an average amount of assistance per household of \$1,546. 99% of ERA recipients had one risk factor that increased their risk of falling into homelessness, and 93 % had two or more risk factors.

StreetSong choir began its 11th season in the fall and welcomed two inspiring new Co-Directors, Liz Digitale Anderson and Conie Borchardt. StreetSong continued to be a place of joy and community that brings together people with lived experiences of homelessness and people who care about them. The choir grew to include new singers, along with long-time members, and performed at multiple worship services in the community.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have continued work to drive change at a local and state level. Our commitment to people experiencing housing instability and homelessness is as critical as ever and we will continue to work across our faiths and across private and public sectors to improve the lives of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. We are grateful to have you as a part of this work we do together to address homelessness.

Sincerely,
Katie Dillon
Director, Align Minneapolis | katie@alignmpls.org | alignmpls.org

CLC Foundation Report



Central Lutheran
FOUNDATION

With the contentious election year and so many uncertainties in the world, thankfully the Foundation portfolio of investments has continued to go up, as the stock market continues to do well. Contributions have also helped with the success of the gains in assets. As of the beginning of December 2024, the total market value of the portfolio was over \$27,000,000. Because of the 3-year average formula, the monthly distribution to the church will be \$108,000 per month, to be used as determined by the church council. The restricted designated funds will continue to be distributed twice a year. That amount for the year is somewhat over \$200,000.

The Foundation Board met on May 22 and again on December 11, to conduct the business of the Foundation. However, the 5 committees continue to meet at various times during the year.

The Executive Committee met twice to determine the business to come before the full Board meeting and to set the agenda.

The Development Committee put together the Legacy Partner dinner in July, the Fraud, Caregiver and Funeral Planning series in the Fall and the Surviving Spouse luncheon in December. They also oversee the Website, write thank you notes to donors and a variety of other duties.

The Audit committee made a motion at the December Board meeting to continue to retain Froehling Anderson Auditors for the upcoming year. Motion was carried. The Audit Committee meets with the auditors to discuss and answer questions for the audit to be completed.

The Investment Committee meets quarterly with GS Investments to determine and oversee investment strategy. Pastor Peter attended the last meeting to give information on the situation with the organ and its maintenance needs. He also gave a presentation at the full Board meeting. A motion was made at the Board meeting to put aside \$300,000 for the benefit of the capital appeal to come. This will be in addition to the regular distributions.

Many generous contributions were made to the Foundation in 2024 in the form of memorials, Thrivent Choice dollars, legacy gifts and outright donations. The total of those gifts for the year came to \$179,907.43.

Thank you again to all those who have been so generous. My heart is filled with gratitude for you.

Present members of the Foundation Board are: Emilie Anderson, Joyce Anderson (Vice-President), Kay Dixon, Patrick Egan, Ron Fiscus, James Heintz (Secretary/Treasurer), Kari Lyle, Sara Masters (Director of Operations and Finance), Pastor Peter Nycklemoe (Senior Pastor), Seth Peter, Charles (Chas) Scheiderer, Steve Studt and Bonnie Weisenburger (President).

Submitted with thanksgiving,

Bonnie Weisenburger
President

Fiscal and Property Committee Report

In their most literal definitions fiscal and property refer to the treasury and the things possessed or owned. At Central Lutheran Church the Congregation Council established the Fiscal and Property Committee to observe, review, analyze, and advise on the financial activities of our church and to make recommendations and decisions on the appropriate uses of financial resources, especially those related to repairs, maintenance and acquisition of property and equipment. All our work is done within parameters established by the church's constitution.

This committee serves as stewards of the generosity entrusted to Central Lutheran Church by members, donors and the CLC Foundation as well as revenues earned from other resources such as the parking ramp and facility rentals. Our work begins with reviewing and discussing the annual operating budget prepared by staff, leading up to a budget proposed to and voted on by the congregation at its annual meeting. Then, each month we are provided financial reports from the previous month to analyze, discuss, compare to budget and discern if the church is financially on-track or off-track.

Our objective is to ensure the financials accurately reflect the sources and uses of funds and the procedures for recording financial activities provide transparency and accountability over the use of funds. We are also regularly apprised of the status of the building and equipment used in managing the facility, paying particular attention to significant repairs, maintenance and potential replacement needed. As an advisory committee to the Congregation Council, we can provide some direction to staff on financial matters, and we often will make recommendations to the Congregation Council on actions we believe would be in the best interests of the church.

I am pleased to report the Fiscal and Property Committee has been diligent in serving to ensure the church's financial resources are stewarded well to meet the needs of this thriving faith community. In addition, we look to CLC's future and stay focused on the church's financial sustainability for generations to come.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Jerry Frick*

Operations and Finance Report



New year, new budget. Last year was a good year at Central. Finances were even better than the year before. The generosity of this congregation is astounding. Giving was strong all year long and we ended up with an operating surplus of more than \$240,000.

At the end of the year, our cash position was very strong with more than \$650,000. In 2025, we have plans for some of this money to be used to fund operating reserves, a foundation reserve for the years when the Foundation Board must adjust our monthly support, and we will pay down debt.

Our monthly income of \$102,000 from the Central Lutheran Church Foundation was less than in 2023, and they still provided \$1.234 million in general operating support. The markets in 2024 ended well and in turn our monthly revenue from the Foundation will go back up to \$108,000 in 2025. This is good news! Again, the Foundation contributions are calculated based on a three-year averaging formula.

I'm happy to report that net parking revenue in 2024 was more than \$490,000! I don't think we have seen parking revenue that high! This income helps fund the meals we serve on Mondays to the community, the staff that supports the Restoration Center, and Street Voices of Change. We expect another busy year in the parking lot. So if you don't have a parking card to get into the lot, please email me (smasters@centralmpls.org) and I will get you one.

This coming spring we will embark on a capital appeal for the restoration of the Casavant organ along with several other facility projects. A Capital Appeal Team has started meeting and more information will be coming soon.

We will see some events coming to Central this year. The National Lutheran Choir will be here in May. Luther Seminary Commencement takes place in June. And the ELCA Presiding Bishop installation will be in October. It is so exciting when we have guests!

I want to thank our trusty Monday Counters who come every Monday morning to count the offering from the prior week. Even though online giving is very popular, we still have a good share of people giving cash and checks. The counters are: Leon, Ron, Steve, Susan, Paul, Mary and Larry. I am so thankful for you all.

And lastly, I want to report that there was an audit of the 2023 financials in 2024, and that clean audit report was presented to the Audit Committee and the Council got a copy of it.

*Sara Masters
Director of Operations and Finance*

Assets and Liabilities

Assets	12/31/2024	12/31/2023	12/31/2022
Operating			
Operating Checking	\$327,352	\$205,378	\$141,233
Mission Forward Checking	\$0	\$0	\$33,342
Reserve Savings	\$105,128	\$102,582	\$75,205
Alerus Wealth Access	\$217,626	\$208,807	\$198,136
Total Operating Assets	\$650,105	\$516,767	\$447,916
Designated Fund Asset Support			
Designated Checking	\$374,593	\$81,804	\$28,813
Capital Reserve Savings	\$77,904	\$59,090	\$0
Life Insurance Cash Value	\$32,101	\$30,840	\$29,685
Schwab Stock Account	\$347,945	\$298,520	\$278,233
Schwab Liquid Account	\$1,762,618	\$1,290,951	\$108,225
MIF CD 20000008770	\$36,415	\$35,080	\$33,637
MIF CD 30000011864	\$85,366	\$82,389	\$80,577
Total Designated Fund Asset Support	\$2,716,943	\$1,878,673	\$559,169
Assets Held for Others (fiscal agency)			
Align ERA	\$72,814	\$129,667	\$169,557
Align Admin	\$35,162	\$28,317	\$4,096
Columbarium Checking	\$49,323	\$40,450	\$35,485
Tree of Life Checking	\$0	\$0	\$3,064
Total Assets Held for Others (fiscal agency)	\$157,299	\$198,435	\$212,203
Fixed Assets			
Parking Lot	\$5,714,286	\$5,714,286	\$5,714,286
Building	\$17,130,000	\$17,130,000	\$17,130,000
Total Fixed Assets	\$22,844,286	\$22,844,286	\$22,844,286
Total Assets	\$26,368,632	\$25,438,161	\$24,063,574
Liabilities & Net Assets			
Liability for Funds Held for Others	\$157,299	\$198,435	\$212,203
Notes Payable			
MIF Long Term Mortgage	\$5,294,827	\$5,447,735	\$5,596,238
MIF Short Term Mortgage	\$601,739	\$664,979	\$762,461
MIF Casavant Design LoC	\$300,000	\$0	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$6,353,864	\$6,311,149	\$6,571,073
Net Assets			
Without Donor Restrictions	\$17,473,998	\$17,316,120	\$16,939,234
With Donor Restrictions	\$2,540,770	\$1,810,892	\$553,267
Total Net Assets	\$20,014,768	\$19,127,013	\$17,492,501
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$26,368,632	\$25,438,161	\$24,063,574

Revenue and Expenses



2024 Designated Fund Summary

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
ACTS	\$827	\$827
Baptismal Font	\$2,361	\$2,361
Bequests	\$0	\$0
Book Club	\$600	\$600
Capital Appeal Holding Acct	\$0	\$993,436
Caring for Creation	\$793	\$2,293
Casavant Restoration Fund	-\$78,830	\$75,189
Central Nursing Fund	\$1,143	\$1,143
Central Quilters	\$52	\$52
Circle of Hope	\$1,485	\$110
Columbarium Temp Holding	\$0	\$0
Community Ministry	\$57,288	\$25,836
Congregational Events	\$2,425	\$0
CYF	\$67,940	\$62,046
Debt Reduction	\$11,028	\$0
Due TO operating account	\$0	\$37,000
ELCA World Hunger	\$0	\$0
Fine Art Acquisition	\$13,784	\$13,497
Floral Guild	\$0	\$0
Foundation Designated Funds	\$0	\$0
Foundation Reserve	\$50,533	\$61,087
Gardening Corps	\$1,842	\$1,501
Global Missions	\$25,491	\$33,485
Insurance Claim Payments	\$1,066,671	\$571,985
Kitchen Fund	\$2,060	\$2,060
Library Reserve	\$8,084	\$6,660
Long-term Projects	\$169,293	\$169,293
Memorials	\$23,636	\$54,943
Music Commission	\$10,000	\$10,000
Music Fund	\$27,812	\$29,795
Parking Lot Easement	\$197,494	\$197,494
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$0	\$2,400
Peace & Justice Forums	\$1,507	\$1,507
Prayer Shawls	\$112	\$112
Repair Fund (Consumables)	\$99,130	\$122,567
Sanctuary Renewal	\$0	\$33,430
Saturday Night Worship	\$0	\$905
Sem Scholarships	\$6,697	\$8,032
Senior Adult Ministry	\$39,006	\$17,897
Sound and Technical	\$27	\$27
Staging Lift	\$1,000	\$1,000
Ukraine Crisis Response	\$100	\$200
Youth Trip Shareholders	\$0	\$0
Total Restricted Net Assets	\$1,811,392	\$2,540,770

Proposed Budget for 2025

Accounts	Budget 2025	Budget 2024	Actual 2024
Revenues			
Regular Offering	\$1,525,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,563,407
Building Usage Revenue	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,706
Parking Revenue	\$450,000	\$420,000	\$490,504
Foundation Revenue	\$1,296,000	\$1,224,000	\$1,234,553
Kitchen Cash Receipts	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$10,690
Donor Designated Restoration Ctr	\$145,000	\$140,000	\$149,234
Donor Designated Music	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Donor Designated CYF	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
Donor Designated Seniors	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
Donor Designated Seminarian Support	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Interest/Investment Revenue	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$122,329
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$50,000	\$0	\$29,098
Total CLC Revenues	\$3,639,000	\$3,434,500	\$3,738,521
Other Revenues			
Estate Gifts	\$0	\$0	\$5,500
Wedding and Funeral Services	\$0	\$0	\$31,954
Total Revenues	\$3,639,000	\$3,434,500	\$3,775,975

Proposed Budget for 2025 (continued)

Accounts	Budget 2025	Budget 2024	Actual 2024
Expenses			
Mission Emphasis (Benevolence)			
ELCA Churchwide Partnership	\$66,000	\$62,400	\$62,400
Bread of Life Lutheran	\$25,000	\$33,600	\$33,735
St Pauls - San Pablo Lutheran	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
ELCA South Sudan Mission	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
Young Adults Global Mission (YAGM)	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
Bright Stars of Bethlehem	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
Luther Seminary CPL	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Synod Leadership	\$12,500	\$10,000	\$15,000
MN Council of Churches	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Ignation Spiritual Project	\$2,500	\$0	\$0
Lutheran Healthcare Bangladesh	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
Lutheran World Relief	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
China Service Ventures	\$0	\$11,000	\$11,000
Wycliffe-Follingstad	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
Wycliffe-Gaultney	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
Envision Community (tiny homes)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Align Mpls (Partner Support)	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Mental Health Connect	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
ERA (Align Mpls)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Lutheran Social Services	\$6,500	\$5,000	\$6,500
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$60,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Augsburg Health Commons	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Camp Amnicon	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
ReconcilingWorks	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total Mission Emphasis (Benevolence)	\$354,500	\$295,000	\$301,635
Ministry Emphasis			
Worship Life Ministry	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$25,854
Music Ministry	\$52,550	\$47,450	\$52,950
Children/Youth/Family Ministry	\$25,000	\$24,500	\$39,440
Community Ministry	\$169,950	\$144,950	\$171,168
Fellowship Ministry	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,848
Other Ministries	\$21,800	\$21,300	\$17,272
Total Ministry Emphasis	\$341,800	\$310,700	\$349,533

Proposed Budget for 2025 (continued)

Accounts	Budget 2025	Budget 2024	Actual 2024
Facility Expenses			
Building Operations	\$235,000	\$221,500	\$219,519
Utilities	\$162,000	\$167,000	\$146,807
Loans and Escrow	\$413,160	\$427,160	\$436,844
Exterior Maintenance	\$48,000	\$50,000	\$36,359
Total Facility Expenses	\$858,160	\$865,660	\$839,530
Congregational Life			
Administration	\$173,550	\$146,550	\$165,372
Council & Committees	\$5,700	\$4,700	\$3,349
Communications	\$8,500	\$38,500	\$31,945
Banking, Legal, and Audit	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$32,593
Total Congregational Life	\$221,750	\$223,750	\$233,258
Personnel			
Facility Staff	\$123,013	\$120,776	\$117,515
Ministry and Admin Staff	\$928,073	\$883,426	\$891,088
Security & Restoration Staff	\$371,794	\$352,828	\$369,738
Employee Benefits	\$344,896	\$327,756	\$325,508
Continuing Education	\$20,225	\$17,500	\$13,762
Mileage & Expense Accounts	\$12,500	\$11,000	\$10,404
Misc Personnel Expense	\$58,944	\$62,110	\$79,013
Total Personnel	\$1,859,445	\$1,775,395	\$1,807,027
Total Expenses	\$3,635,655	\$3,470,505	\$3,530,983
Net Total	\$3,345	-\$36,005	\$244,992

* The figures on pages 29-34 reflect the balance as of 12/31/24. Changes in balances like interest income are not reflected because we did not get those figures at the time of printing.

Nominating Committee Report

Here are the leaders that the Nominating Committee recommends for approval by the Congregation Council.

Council:

President: Rexanne Spicer – one year remaining on term
Vice President: Allison Eger – one year remaining on term
Secretary: Heidi Tysk-Poppe – one year remaining on term
Treasurer: Ron Fiscus – two-year term

At Large:

Julie Anderson – one year remaining on term
Rachel Moeller – one year remaining on term
PJ Ritters – two-year term
Laurel Stewart – two-year term
Christopher McCarty – two-year term
Janice Divine-Ruggles – two-year term

Nominating Committee:

Sara Stensaas – two-year term
Ben Berg – three-year term
Nancy Tykwinski – three-year term
Eric Penne - 1-year remaining on term
Claire Johnson – 1-year remaining on term
Meghan Eliason – 1-year remaining on term
Ben Longman – 2 years remaining on term
Leon Tibben – 2 years remaining on term
Sara Gunsch – 2 years remaining on term

Audit Committee:

Andrew Heintz – two years remaining on term
Mary Farmer – one year remaining on term
Aaron Sankey – one year remaining on term

Synod Assembly:

Christa Olson
Karen Knox
Judith Hedman
Jeff Block

In gratitude for your service:

Jeff Block – completes two, two-year terms on Council (VP, President, At-large)
Karl Staff – completes two, two-year terms on Council (Treasurer)
Ann Oyen – completes two, two-year terms on Council (At-large)
Jenna Harvieux – completes term on Nominating
Karen Hielsberg – completes term on Nominating



Exploring the Promise of God for All

You are welcome.
No exceptions.



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

AN EVERY DAY CHURCH FOR EVERYONE

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