

# Annual Report 2025



Central Lutheran  
MINNEAPOLIS

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**AGENDA**

Welcome and Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Adoption of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes

February 9, 2025 - Annual Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2025 - Special Meeting Minutes

President's Report

Rostered Ministers' Reports

Written Reports to Note

Information Items

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Nominating Committee Report and Elections

Thank You, Prayer, and Benediction

Adjournment

# Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting

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*The Annual Meeting of Central Lutheran Church was held in person on Sunday, February 9, 2025, and via the livestream link at [www.centralmpls.org](http://www.centralmpls.org). The 2024 Annual Report was available to Central members attending or online via the church's website.*

## Call to Order

Congregation President Rexanne Spicer began the meeting with a brief welcome and overview of the meeting and logistics for communication for those members on the livestream. She then called the meeting to order at 12:00 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 Rexanne Spicer presented the agenda that can be found on page 3 of the 2024 Annual Report.

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

## Approval of Minutes

Congregation President Rexanne Spicer presented the minutes from the February 12, 2024 Annual Meeting that can be found on pages 4-5 of the 2024 Annual Report.

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

## President's Report

Congregation President Rexanne Spicer shared highlights from her report. The Congregation President's report can be found on pages 6-7 of the 2024 Annual Report.

## Rostered Ministers' Reports

Pastors Stephanie Friesen and Melissa

Pohlman shared highlights of their written reports. Their reports can be found beginning on pages 12-15 of the 2024 Annual Report. In addition to sharing highlights of his written report found on pages 10-11, Pastor Peter also highlighted the Church Statistics, found on page 7. All three pastors expressed their gratitude to all members and the amazing staff of Central.

## Written Reports to Note

Joyce Anderson gave a brief update from the Central Lutheran Foundation (found on page 26).

Congregation President Rexanne Spicer encouraged all members to read the other written reports found in the 2024 Annual Report, beginning on page 16.

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

## Information Items

Pastor Peter gave a brief update on the Strategic Plan Task Forces that were recently launched by the council. Isaac Drewes, Director of Music and Principal Organist, and Russell Draeger shared updates on the Casavant Organ. Pastor Peter also shared updates on the Sanctuary Renewal.

## Action Items:

### Treasurer's Report and 2025 Budget

Treasurer Karl Starr presented an overview of the financial reports - Assets and Liabilities, 2024 Revenues and Expenses, 2024 Designated Fund Summary, and Proposed Budget for 2025 - beginning on page 29 of the 2024 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 2025 Budget was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee and as affirmed by the council, Sara Stensaas submitted the following nominating ballot for election of leadership: Council Treasurer (1st term) Ron Fiscus; Council at-large Members (1st term) Christopher McCarty, Janice Devine-Ruggles; (2nd term) PJ Ritters, Laurel Stewart; Nominating Committee – (1st term) Ben Berg, Nancy Tykwinski; (2nd term) Sara Stensaas. The Synod Assembly Voting Members were recognized – Christa Olson, Karen Knox, Judy Hedman, Jeff Block. This report highlighting all leaders appears on page 35 of the 2024 Annual Report.

According to the Constitution, President Rexanne 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 2025. He also shared his thanks to those council leaders completing their service, Jeff Block, Karl Starr, and Ann Oyen. Council President Rexanne added her thanks to Central's congregation and staff members for the past year.

Pastor Melissa closed the meeting with prayer and a benediction.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by motion, second, and approval at 12:50 p.m.

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

# Minutes of the April 6, 2025 Special Meeting

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*A Special Meeting of Central Lutheran Church  
was held in person on Sunday, April 6, 2025.*

## **Call to Order**

Congregation President Rexanne Spicer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., noting that the number in attendance surpassed the constitution quorum of 100. On the recommendation of the Fiscal and Property Committee and the Congregation Council, Paster Peter Nycklemoe shared details of the five projects in the Sanctuary Renewal Project portion of the Casavant and Sanctuary Renewal Project, which are supported by generous memorial gifts and easement funds.

- Project 1: Sanctuary boiler replacement and additional work (removal of old plumbing, maintenance and duct work in the boiler room). Bid: \$325,000
- Project 2: Parking lot re-milling, reline and ramp direction change. Bid: \$220,000
- Project 3: Sacristy renovation. Bid: \$72,409
- Project 4: ADA Chancel Ramp. Bid: \$62,392
- Project 5: Altar restoration and remodel. Bid: \$70,040

Sub-total: \$749,841  
Contingency: \$37,492  
Adjusted total: \$787,333

Easement Funds available: \$198,000  
Memorial Funds available: \$667,000  
Total funds available: \$865,000

A motion to approve the Sanctuary Renewal Project portion of the Casavant and Sanctuary Renewal, not to exceed \$800,000 for the five proposed projects, was made and seconded. A voice vote by all in attendance was received, with no dissenting votes.

Pastor Peter then gave an update on the Casavant Organ Project. Any remaining funds will go toward this project.

## **Adjournment**

Congregation President Rexanne Spicer adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

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

## 2025 Church Statistics

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The statistics report provides a three-year snapshot for comparison.

Life Passages	Baptisms	Confirmations	Weddings	New Members	Funerals
2025/'24/'23	18/9/8	6/4/6	3/4/8	34/52/54	26/32/28

Worship*	Weekend In-person Average	Triduum In-person Total	Easter Weekend	Christmas Eve and Day
2025/2024/2023	425/438/384	685/650/684	1265/1219/1252	1299/1563/1169

Children, Youth, and Adult Formation	Sunday School Enrollment	Confirmation Enrollment	High School	Adult Forum and Bible Study Combined Avg.
2025/2024/2023	31/30/30	11/15/20	9/18/14	97/95/93

### Notes:

Life Passages show consistency for baptisms, confirmations, and weddings. In 2025 we had a number of baptisms to celebrate. Last year's new members are a blessing, once again. For last year's funerals please note that the 26 funerals were member funerals held at Central or presided at offsite by a Central pastor. There were 28 total funerals at Central, two were for friends of the congregation. There were 33 deaths within our faith community, seven members who died did not have their funeral at Central, were at distant locations, or the funeral has not yet been scheduled.

The worship numbers reported above are for in-person. The online weekend worship average, based on the IP addresses for the livestream 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 2025. The combined in-person and online weekend worship average for 2025 was 661. Pre-Covid the 2019 in person worship average, for comparison, was 543.

Finally, it is fun to share that there are 23 children on the cradle roll currently, the newborn through age three age group.

# 2025 Historian's Report

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## January 2025

- Wednesday Bible Studies on the "Essential Scripture: the New Testament" resume in person/Zoom (1/8)
- Organizing Training at the Mount Olivet Retreat Center (1/13-17)
- Empowering Conversations begins its monthly meetings with speaker Paul Pribbenow (1/19)
- Winter Family Festival fun with more than 60 children, parents and grandparents! (1/25)
- New Member Weekend welcomes 18 new members (1/25-26)
- 2025 Budget meeting in person (1/26)

## February 2025

- The Central Book Club continues in the new year with lively discussion and fellowship centered around the reading of current books.
- Personnel Committee provides sexual harassment and personal boundary training to staff (2/4)
- Annual Meeting – The congregation approves the 2025 Budget and the Nominating Committee's ballot for leaders and officers of the congregation (2/9)
- Grief Group back in session after a brief pause (2/26)

## March 2025

- Casavant and Capital Appeal Information Meetings being held throughout the month of March
- Ash Wednesday Worship (3/5)
- Midweek Lenten Worship at noon, with soup/salad following. Midweek Lenten Study at 6 p.m. The Lord's Prayer is guiding the 40-day journey. Lenten devotional book written by members available in book form and emailed daily.
- Lenten prayer stations offered in the sanctuary
- New Fine Arts show, *Water Prayers*, by A.P. Looze begins through May (3/8)
- Augustana University Choir leads morning worship and presents afternoon concert (3/9)
- Homeless Day on the Hill 2025 (3/12)
- Lenten Prayer Retreat at Central – The Lord's Prayer (3/15)

## April 2025

- Central Choir joins six TC choirs for "Voices

## for a Cathedral" in Saint Paul (4/4)

- Special Meeting – The congregation approves five projects for the Sanctuary Renewal and hears updates on the Casavant organ project. (4/6)
- Tanzanian Doctors give presentation on the development of cancer care (4/6)
- Palm Sunday Weekend with a palm procession, children's program, and intergenerational learning (4/12-13)
- Holy Week/Three Days/Easter Worship (4/17-20)
- 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
- Central Cares for Creation hosts electronic waste recycling and document shredding (4/26-27)
- Sunday School children and families restock Augsburg Central Health Commons health kits for upcoming summer (4/27)
- Annual Camp Amnicon fundraiser (4/27)

## May 2025

- End of Program Year celebration (5/4)
- National Lutheran Choir Concert: "Healing for our Future" (5/4)
- ELCA & Central observe National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (5/5)
- Confirmation Weekend – six Central youth affirm their baptisms (5/17-18)
- MCC Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs leads second Sacred Sites Tour (5/31)

## June 2025

- Graduate Recognition and Celebration (5/31-6/1)
- Central hosts Luther Seminary Commencement (6/1)
- New centralmpls.org website is launched (6/2)
- Generosity Team celebrates Volunteer Appreciation Weekend (6/7-8)
- Adult Choirs pop-up during the summer (6/8, 7/20, 8/24)
- Adult Summer Guided Prayer Retreat (6/11-18)

- New Member Weekend welcomes 11 new members (6/14-15)
- New Fine Arts show - *Vie de Jesus Mafa (Life of Jesus Mafa)*, by Bénédite de la Roncière begins (6/21)
- Reconciling in Christ Weekend (6/21-23)
- Summer on the Plaza Carillon Concerts & Food Trucks (6/22, 7/6, 7/13, 7/19, 7/27)
- VBS "Where did Jesus live?" begins (6/22, 7/13, 8/10)
- Central Booth at LGBTQ Pride Celebration, staffed by Rainbow Circle (6/28-29)

## July 2025

- Work begins on parking lot & ramp, as well as boiler replacement
- Joel Bolen is welcomed as the new Saturday Musician (7/5)
- Middle School students head to Amnicon to paddle the Flambeau (7/13-18)
- Central High Schoolers head to Christikon in the Absaroka National Forest, Montana (7/20-27)

## August 2025

- Sara Stensaas joins staff as Congregational Administration Coordinator (8/4)
- Young Adults have fun at the Saints (8/5)
- Lutheran Night at the Twins (8/14)
- Happy hour for recent new members hosted by Generosity Team (8/19)
- Blessing of the Backpacks & Annual Church Picnic after 10:30 a.m. worship (8/24)

## September 2025

- Music Rehearsals begin – Central Choir (9/3) and Bell Choir (9/17)
- "Stories of Home" Rally Weekend (9/6-8) – Worship on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, with an intergenerational learning activity and fellowship between Sunday services.
- New Fine Arts show celebrates Indigenous Lutheran Artists (9/13 – 10/13)
- Fall Formation classes begin (9/14)
- Sunday Adult Forums and Wednesday Bible Study reflect on "Stories of Home"
- CLC Foundation Life Series I & II highlights topics of interest to older adults (9/14, 9/28)
- Augsburg Central Health Commons offers flu shots (9/29)

## October 2025

- New 9-to-Dine groups formed, and each begin setting up three gatherings through June 2026
- Central hosts ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry's installation (10/4)

- Fall Prayer Retreat "Home in the Presence of God" with Pastors Kathie and Peter Nycklemoe leading (10/12)
- Jenna Harvieux named as winner of the boiler naming contest (10/12)
- Global Mission Weekend with global partners, Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh sharing (10/18-20)
- Pastor Judith Stone retires as a visitation pastor (10/31)

## November 2025

- All Saints' Weekend with a special adult forum, Central Choir & MSO offering John Rutter's *Requiem* at 10:30 a.m. worship and the Columbarium open to visitors (11/1-3)
- Central hosts Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic (11/8)
- Hope for Home: Sabbath to End Homelessness with multiple activities planned by the Align Central Team (11/15-17)
- First Communion class held (11/22)
- Fall Generosity Ingathering Weekend (11/22-23)
- Community Thanksgiving Meal served (11/24)
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Basilica of St. Mary (11/27)
- Annual Advent Fair – intergenerational learning experiences the wonder and anticipation of the Advent season (11/30)

## December 2025

- The Advent Daily Devotional 2025 features songs and reflections of "Stories of Home" and is available in booklets and emails
- Advent prayer stations offered in the sanctuary
- Augsburg Advent Vespers (12/5-6)
- OWLS annual Christmas Luncheon (12/9)
- New Art show from artist seangarrison (12/9)
- Homeless Memorial March & Service at Plymouth Congregational Church (12/18)
- Blue Christmas Healing Prayer Service (12/20)
- Sunday School Christmas Program at 10:30 a.m. worship (12/21)
- Community Christmas Worship and Meal (12/22)
- Christmas Eve services at 3 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.; Christmas Day has one service at 10 a.m.
- Lessons and Carols Worship at 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. (12/27-28)
- High school youth and post-high school/college students gather (12/17, 12/30)

## President's Report

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Over the past few months, Central has been exploring the theme "Stories of Home," inviting us into deeper conversations about what it truly means to experience home. Again and again, we've discovered that while

'home' can certainly be a physical place, it is even more profoundly a feeling, a sense of acceptance, belonging, and care. It is the experience of being known, welcomed, and held in community.

This past year, Central has once again embodied the fullness of what 'home' truly means — in the way we tend to our shared space, care for one another, and extend that care into the wider community.

In caring for our physical space, the council along with Fiscal & Property, completed several important facilities projects this year: installing new boilers, repairing and upgrading the parking lot and ramp, tending to roof repairs, and continuing the conversation about restoring our organ.

Central's new website was launched in the spring, providing an enhanced experience in accessing information and resources.

Central exhibited the many ways we live out 'home' in how we care for one another and our neighbors. Members of the three task forces formed in 2024 met throughout the year and began putting into action the goals that help us welcome and include all who enter our community. Thank you to all those that have been involved and given of your time.

Our 9-to-Dine groups continue to flourish as members gather around tables to share meals and meaningful conversation.

Many in our congregation are engaged in Intergenerational Learning, as well as in opportunities for all ages, youth through our OWLS programs.

Our staff and volunteers continue to care faithfully for those who come through the Restoration Center, and we are nourished in body and spirit through the sharing of our Community Meals.

Central's music and worship life continues to draw people and our joy in hosting choirs from other communities reflects our commitment to hospitality and connection. We also welcomed our partners across the world as we hosted Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh in the fall.

In September, Central had the privilege of hosting the installation of Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry; our community's commitment to welcoming all was evident throughout the celebration.

In 2025, we welcomed Joel Bolen, Saturday evening musician and Sara Stensaas, Congregation Administration Coordinator, to Central's staff.

We thank Judith Stone and Tim Short for their dedicated service.

As we welcomed new members and guests of all ages, we also walked alongside those who experienced loss, trusting in God's presence in every season.

The care that the council, clergy, staff, and the congregation give to our finances, our physical space, and the call to live out Christ's mission has made it a privilege to serve as your president over the past two years.

I offer my sincere thanks to Central's clergy, staff, volunteers, and council members. It has been a blessing to work alongside you and to witness the many ways you give of yourselves to this community.

My heartfelt thanks to the entire congregation, as you continue to live out the mission of welcoming and serving all, with no exceptions, who walk into our 'home.'

*With gratitude and peace,  
Rexanne Spicer*

## Pastor Peter Nycklemoe

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### Stories of Home

It is a blessing to be guided by this year's theme, "Stories of Home." When I get overwhelmed by the news cycle, the cultural changes, and challenges for the church, God's gift of life together here at our church home centers me. I return to this quote from Brother David Steindl-Rast that shapes my understanding of our home in God and God's home with us:

"When I discover that in my heart of hearts God is closer to me than I am to myself, then I have come home" (*Gratefulness, the Heart of Prayer*, 37).

### Grateful

Gratefulness is truly the heart of prayer. I am deeply grateful for our shared life together in the ebb and flow of this moment in history. Day in and day out I witness God at work in and through your faithfulness and generosity. It is humbling to see all that is provided and the expansive care from each of you. God is clearly at work in and through each of you.

### Grateful for those who serve in leadership

I am deeply grateful for all who serve in leadership. It is a privilege to work alongside you who faithfully serve on the Congregation Council, Personnel Committee, Fiscal and Property Committee, Audit Committee, Nominating Committee, Synod Assembly Voting Members, Generosity Team, Global Mission Team, Information, Communication and Connection Task Force (ICC), and Prayer Team. I am grateful for all who plan, prepare, set up, decorate, sing, ring, lead worship, and host. I am grateful for all who count the weekly offering and you who serve as trustees on the Central Lutheran Church Foundation Board. I am specifically grateful this year for Judith Hedman and all the hosts who have shared our welcome for the big events, like for the Installation of the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA and Augsburg Vespers, to name two events. I know that

I will miss naming a group, committee, or team, so I say I am grateful for you all.

### Grateful for the work of the ICC Task Force and the Constitution Committee

My gratitude to the ICC (Information, Communication and Connection) Task Force for their work this year: Abigail Pribbenow, chair; Karen Snyder, Ken Hardy, Judith Hedman, Katie Brenke, Jim Hart, Sara Klomp, Brenda Blackhawk, and Karen Knox. Here are the SMART goals finalized by the ICC Task Force and approved by the Council:

1. *Strategy to connect* Goal: Utilize Central Church's downtown location to raise awareness and increase further engagement with the community.
2. *Internal in reach* Try something new and ministry opportunities. Goal: Develop internal, in reach strategy to invite people to try something new, with a ministry opportunity document to support this work.
3. *External outreach* Goal: Develop an external outreach strategy to invite the greater downtown community to connect with the Central website for worship and the Restoration Center, and ways to expand awareness of Central.

We also tended the Constitution for a needed update and to align with the ELCA's model constitution. An open meeting to walk through the updates is scheduled for Sunday, February 1. The Constitution has been approved by the council and comes to the congregation for approval. Once approved, parts will immediately go into effect and other updates will be ratified at next year's annual meeting and then be implemented. Thank you to Kevin Lile, chair; and Kirsten Hash, Christopher McCarty and Rexanne Spicer for their work, careful edits and updates.

*Continues on the next page...*

## Pastor Peter Nycklemoe (cont.)

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### Grateful for pastoral and staff colleagues

Gratitude cannot fully express what it means to work with such faithful and talented pastors and staff members each day. God blesses our life together in so many ways, certainly in and through the gifts of each pastor and staff here at Central. I also note with gratitude Pastor Judith who retired this

past fall. I am grateful for her many years of care and ministry. And, in gratitude that she remains a member of this faith community.

I am grateful to serve as one of your pastors, giving thanks for all our stories of home in God.

*Pastor Peter Nycklemoe*

## Pastor Stephanie Friesen

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*"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..." Ephesians 4: 11-12a*

As I reflect on 2025, I am struck by the many activities and events that have shifted us from recovery mode to reengagement after a years-long recovery from Covid-19. There are signs of new life and new opportunities especially in and with our young adults and young families.

One of my highlights this year was the work of the Seasons of Life Task Force. The Seasons of Life Task Force examined and then set goals for expanding Central's programming to members across the generations. Made up of team members ranging in age from 20-something to 80-something, the team's work initially focused on what Central is already doing well, and then, identifying where there might be opportunities and needs for expanded programming.

This imagining and planning is at the heart of the Formation and Care ministry cluster. These are good things happening as 2025 comes to a close:

- Monthly letters and resources sent to cradle roll families
- Engaging Sunday School and VBS programs for children

- An indoor family fun day in January for families of all ages
- Faith forming confirmation programming including classroom & experiential learning
- Social and experiential learning for high school students
- Easter Vigil service opportunities and a St. Paul Saints Game / Social for young adults
- Adult Forums for all ages each Sunday
- Empowering Conversations each month for thoughtful conversations on justice that leads to peace
- Wednesday night Bible studies
- Summer book studies
- The Central Book Club for ambitious & thoughtful readers
- Monthly gatherings for members and friends in journeys of grief
- Scheduling baptisms, weddings, and funerals
- Monthly outings for the Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS)
- Quarterly meetings for Caring Callers active with visitation ministry

Each of these activities represent a particular demographic in the Seasons of Life cadre, and we feel good about what is already happening here at Central. And, there are opportunities to do more, so the Season of Life team has set goals in two specific areas.

In 2026, look for added programming for young adults and for family ministry opportunities. We will add opportunities for young adults to gather on a more regular basis and we are working on a plan for family activities to expand beyond the Winter Family Festival in January.

The expansion of programming within the Formation and Care ministry cluster wouldn't be possible without the remarkable volunteers and staff who keep programs moving forward. Special thanks to Emmie Brenke, nursery coordinator, Michael Dee, life passages coordinator, and Kari Colchin, CYF coordinator. I am also grateful for the Central staff and all their support including those who ensure that the nursery and classrooms are ready for learning every weekend, for

rooms that are set up for learning in-person and online throughout the week, and for communications about upcoming programs that are made available in print, online, and on the website. Special thanks to all the volunteers who serve so faithfully within the Formation and Care cluster. We are blessed by a staff and congregation who bear servant hearts, and for them, I am so grateful.

I am blessed by each of you who empower my colleagues and me to do this work. *"To equip the saints for ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."*

Looking forward to another spirit-filled year.

*Peace,*  
*Pastor Stephanie Friesen*

## Pastor Melissa Pohlman

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I do not think that my imagination was big enough to hold the surprises of 2025 before we dove into this year.

### Organizing Training

We began the year with a new crop of organizers for training in January. We had

an amazing mix of folks from Align, Street Voices of Change, C3, Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, and Exodus Lending. They learned all about the strategy chart and practiced using their new tools to win a campaign. We helped them imagine how they could use these new tools.

### Challenges

Following the change in our federal leadership, we started to face challenges we were not prepared for. Programs we had long thought were settled and standard no longer were a safety net for folks experiencing homelessness or poverty. The most impactful for our ministry at Central included the elimination of USAID, reductions of staff in the areas of climate change and public health, the attack on the LGBTQIA2S+ community,

radical reductions and changes in HUD funding and methods, and the delay and reduction in SNAP funding. Our call is to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned. We often did these things in cooperation with the federal government. This year all of that became more challenging.

### Restoration Center

We saw record numbers of people come for direct services this year. At our Thanksgiving meal we set the record for the most plates served at a Monday meal in our history. A mere month later, we broke that record at the Christmas meal. We served 420 plates for Christmas in 2025. None of this could be done without the amazing and dedicated volunteers, or without Mark, Lorraine, and Sherry who plan and lead them.

The Free Store too saw more people shopping (especially on Mondays and Thursdays) than in years past. We experienced some huge swings in the amount of donations this year. When I left on sabbatical at the end of July, we were struggling with very few items to place on the racks and shelves as donations

## Pastor Melissa Pohlman (cont.)

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had been sparse. When I came back from sabbatical in October, the donation bins were overflowing and I had to buy more hangers so we could put them all out. We have been blessed with our partnerships with the Downtown Improvement District, the Hilton Garden Inn, and the Convention Center. They all donated generously to the Free Store this year through coat drives, linen and pillow donations, and bringing over their lost and found contents to us. Again, the volunteers are the heart of this ministry, and we simply could not open the Free Store without them or the hospitality of Dwayne and Dorothy.

Dr. Katie Clark and her amazing crew of nurses beautifully cared for our folks again this year. At times we were overwhelmed by the generosity of Bombas Socks and of the folks who donate diapers, but as we know, there is great need and the nurses can help meet it and make sure all these donations leave the church with folks who really need them. Look forward to more work surrounding Health Care Directives in 2026 from the Health Commons and Street Voices of Change.

### **ERA change**

2025 was a year where people struggled to keep their housing in our community. The resources to help people stay housed changed radically mid-year and no one was prepared for the impact that would have on our Emergency Rental Assistance Program (part of Align Minneapolis). In order to help some of the most deeply impacted folks, we decided to change the program in 2026 to focus on people who are 55 years and older who live in Minneapolis. We will see what this change brings to our ability to keep people in their homes and off the streets, as the senior population is the largest growing demographic becoming homeless in Hennepin County. Our intake volunteers are the best and we are indebted to Karen Knox for the support she provides them.

### **Mental Health and Wholeness Task Force**

In response to the challenges we have been facing for many years, the council established

the Mental Health and Wholeness Task Force this year. We started meeting in February and really took the time to get to know one another and identify the resources offered in our community and through Mental Health Connect. The task force has focused on awareness, education, and research so far and are finding ways of implementation in 2026. Look forward to some new supportive offerings from this task force and partnerships in the near future. I am so thankful for Tyra, Angee, Jeff, Kenn, Lorene, and Ben who serve on this task force with such wisdom and care.

### **Advocacy**

Our two main advocacy groups at Central are Align Central and the C3 (Central Cares for Creation) Team. The main highlights surrounding advocacy were the Homeless Day on the Hill, where we took more folks from Central than ever and spoke some really good truths learned from life experiences to elected leaders at the state level. We also hosted the Sabbath to End Homelessness in November and, with the help of Brenda Blackhawk, the team created a board game called, "You're Not in Candyland Anymore!" that explored the real-life experiences of people experiencing homelessness. It was a very eye-opening opportunity.

The other remarkable day was in November, when the C3 Team hosted a Fix-It Clinic through Hennepin County. In four hours, we helped 133 people who brought 222 items. 173 of those items got fixed or were on their way to being fixed by their owners. That is a 78% success rate, and we kept 842 pounds out of the landfill. The C3 team continues to advocate and educate and provide opportunities for caring for creation, especially around Earth Day with electronics recycling and paper shredding.

### **Rainbow Circle**

2025 was a year of renewal and fun with the Rainbow Circle. The Rainbow Circle is for all Central folks who are a part of the LGBTIQA2S+ community. We gather around social events to strengthen our relationships

with one another at Central. This year we supported a good cause: Dining Out for Life by having dinner together at the Uptown Lobby at Granada Theater. The Rainbow Circle coordinates Central's participation in the Downtown Congregation's booth at the Twin Cities Pride Festival. We also make sure that Reconciling in Christ (RIC) weekend is celebrated annually for the whole Central Community. In 2025, we were thrilled to have Ring Out!, a handbell ensemble created by and for LGBTQIA2S+ ringers and allies, in worship. If you'd like to join the Rainbow Circle, just send me an email.

### **Street Voices of Change**

The work of Street Voices this year was very focused on the single adult shelters and the ways their staff needed to be educated on the Shelter Residents Bill of Rights. We are down to only two shelters that need training for their staff. They are the two biggest shelters and have the most grievances filed against them. We were pleased to be able to train folks as they were opening new shelter spaces for their residents. Everyone who shows up for a Street Voices meeting is a leader and has lived wisdom to share. It is a gift to be able to honor their gifts in this way.

### **Garden Team**

The Garden Ministry Team had a new leader in Bill Pederson this year. We are grateful to Paul Troselius for his many years of leadership in the group and trust he will continue to share his hard work with the group. The planting, weeding, and watering of the gardens, and the decorating of the trees for Christmas were lovely and enjoyed by all the folks who walk through our property.

### **Fine Arts**

We had many great exhibits this year from "Water Prayers" by A.P. Looze to a deep dive of our collection to a great medley of ELCA Native American Artists' works. We really tapped the diversity of genres and types of art. At the end of December, we also had a new storage system installed. So, we are looking forward to working with Sara Stensaas to better catalogue our collection

and move it into its new protective and organized space.

### **Funeral Reception Team**

Another way we care for folks in their hardest moments is through the Funeral Reception Team. They set up, serve, and clean up after the fellowship time after a funeral at Central. This gives the family the nourishment they need in their grief and also the downtime to just chat and hear the stories of their deceased loved one. These volunteers often give of themselves, as funerals tend to come in clusters, and they never tire of making sure that a plate of food helps facilitate a healthy mourning process at Central.

### **Sabbatical**

Sometimes, to appreciate your home, you need to be away. Sabbatical this year was a chance for me to do that. I traveled a bunch to see friends and family in different places in the U.S. and then Larye and I spent two weeks in Portugal and Spain walking the Portuguese Costal Camino. We walked from Porto, Portugal to Santiago de Compostela, Spain (I took a taxi occasionally and we hopped a bus to Vigo one day). It was a journey that taught me that I can still do hard things, and when I travel at the pace of my own feet, I notice the world in a different way. The Camino journey was an amazing event in Larye's and my life together. I would like to thank the Personnel Committee, the Congregation Council, and the whole staff (including my colleagues) for making my sabbatical happen.

### **Thank You**

Finally, thank you. Thank you to all of you who make these things happen. As we face new and taunting challenges as a community, I know and trust that the Holy Spirit is working in and through you to bring peace, healing, and hope to the brokenhearted of our community. I am blessed to get to do this ministry with all of you.

*Shalom,  
Pastor Melissa*

## Facilities Report

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This is the time of the year for lists. We all have them, whether they are honey-do lists for before the company arrives, or year-end tax check-offs, or perhaps that extra special list for our favorite December 25 nighttime visitor.

Well, we have a list for the building too!!

The building list has been around for quite a while. Years ago, the Fiscal and Property Committee compiled a list of all the major projects that would need attention in the coming years. At the time, the list appeared quite monstrous. Fortunately, we have been working through it and making some excellent progress!

This past year we have crossed off some major items. We have:

- Replaced the last of the old, ballasted roofs on the sanctuary with fully adhered EPDM rubber and a 20-year warranty.
- Milled and resurfaced the entire parking lot and changed the layout of the parking spaces to make our parking lot safer.
- Replaced portions of the sidewalk around our building to level the dangerous uneven areas and reduce the potential for tripping and falling.
- Repaired cracked tile and drywall areas caused by settling, as well as areas that sustained wear and tear from our many activities. These areas also received a fresh coat of paint and are ready for many more years of ministry.

- Perhaps the biggest item we crossed off the list was the boiler replacement project! We replaced our entire heat plant. We removed the 14 small boilers and demoed many of the nearly 100-year-old pipes in the boiler room and replaced them with 4 smaller high efficiency boilers. Doing all of this allows us to care for the sanctuary heat for our future.

It feels great to cross so many important items off our list, and getting these things done is a tremendous accomplishment. I look forward to the upcoming year and continuing to build on the progress we have made.

We all know that lists never stop growing, and fortunately our list items allow us to do more and better for everyone around us. For example, we are working on adding an ADA wheelchair-accessible ramp to allow everyone unfettered access to participate from the chancel. We are also planning to update the sacristy to better use the space.

It was a very busy 2025, and I know 2026 will keep the pace. I would like to thank Charles and Theresa, along with the rest of the staff and the Fiscal and Property Committee, but especially all of you. Without your trust and dedication, we would be looking backward at what needed to be done with regret instead of looking forward to what we get to do together with excitement and optimism.

*With much gratitude,  
David Rodriguez  
Director of Facilities*

## Security Report

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Greetings Central! Looking back at 2025 it has been a busy one. We are averaging slightly over 800 guests per month in the Free Store and Health Commons. This past year security received a wonderful donation where we were able to buy brand new radios for the entire staff. We also, as a staff, conducted our emergency procedure drills for severe weather, fire, and other security measures. This past fall, it was an honor to have the installation of Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry at Central; from a security standpoint, both preparation and the historical event went great.

I would like to give thanks to Security Specialist Dorothy Phifer, parking lot volunteers, Free Store volunteers, Monday meal volunteers, Dr. Katie Clark and her crew in the Health Commons, and to Pastor Peter, Pastor Melissa, Pastor Stephanie and to the rest of my coworkers - you make my time here each day fun and eventful. It's hard for me to believe that I'm now in my 19th year at Central, and I absolutely love my work in this blessed place. Thanks to all of you for your support.

*Peace Always,  
Dwayne Wright  
Director of Security*

## Food Service Report

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Last year was another good one! We did a couple of things to make composting simpler, including purchasing products to make the process easier. Most everything we use to serve meals is compostable. We continue to explore options each year that will get us closer to 100%.

Also, we set a record for the number of meals served on Mondays. For the Thanksgiving Community Meal, we served 355 plates and for the Christmas Community Meal we served 420.

Thanks to all the staff, Sherry, Lorraine, and all the wonderful volunteers and those who have joined our team during the last year.

This year brings changes for me. As I plan my retirement, I will move to a part-time position, working three days each week. You will continue to see me on our busiest days, but when I'm not here, I'll be spending time with my new grandson whose role will be to bring out the kid in me!

Thank you all for your incredible support and friendship as I move to this new adventure!

*God bless,  
Mark Carroll  
Food Service Coordinator*

## Communications Report

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Communications had a big year in 2025, as we launched the new website! If you haven't spent much time there, you should definitely visit [www.centralmpls.org](http://www.centralmpls.org) and have a look around. While there have certainly been a

few hiccups and a learning curve, the new website has been overwhelmingly well-received by the congregation and online users.

As we began the website project, we talked a lot about how the new site needs to tell Central's story. We landed on and were guided by three main goals for the new site: **Usability** (folks are easily able to access the information they need from our website), **Connection** (folks are able to connect with Central's community and ministries on our website), and **Hospitality** (folks feel like they are a part of Central's story when they are on our website).

Here are a few highlights from the new website:

- The Homepage is more dynamic in telling Central's story.
- The New Here page welcomes people who are searching for a church home and preemptively answers many of the initial questions one might have.
- The Livestream page has become a one-stop location where you can access all you might need to comfortably attend worship online.

- The Events Calendar has so many more viewing and search options available! Not to mention that we can easily include other links and resources right into an event, connecting people to the information they want to know.
- And of course, updated information and photos across the whole site.

While the official end to this project has come and gone, the work is far from over as the site needs to be constantly maintained and updated. I'd like to offer a huge thank you to the Website Redesign Team (Boyd, Chloe, Joe, and Karen), everyone who contributed content for the site, and the nearly 30 people who participated in the usability study we conducted over the summer.

In addition to the website, another exciting event for communications was the installation of a new monitor in the Great Room. This new monitor was one initiative of the Invitation, Connection, and Communications Task Force. Already, it has made an impact as more people engage regularly with upcoming events at Central.

As always, I'm incredibly grateful for Central and all the ways I get to continue to do God's work in the world by doing a job I love. Thank you!

*With much gratitude,  
Brenda Blackhawk  
Director of Communications*

## Worship and Music Report

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The past year has been a busy one for music ministry here at Central. Central's Choir, Bell Choir, section leaders, and volunteer song leaders have faithfully provided musical leadership for our services. We also had opportunities

for the Sunday School children to present and lead music in church. We hosted several significant musical events throughout the year. I also had the opportunity to take some continuing education leave to study organ in France. All of this is only possible because of the people who make it happen. We have an amazing blend of volunteers and staff who support our vibrant musical life together, and I am privileged to be a part of it.

In July of this year, we welcomed our new Saturday Worship Musician, Joel Bolen! Joel leads that worship service, shaping its liturgy, providing piano/organ music, and coordinating with our section leaders and volunteer song leaders. On Sunday mornings, Joel is the Director of Music at Ascension Episcopal Church in Stillwater. Henry Rye, a senior at St. Olaf College, continues as our Organ Scholar. This position is designed to support the music ministry here at Central while providing hands-on experience in the field for aspiring organists and church musicians. In August, we bade fond farewell to our Soprano Section Leader Brittany Rudoi. We are working on hiring a new Soprano Section Leader.

Central Lutheran's adult choir had an eventful year, which you can read about in detail in Joe's report. However, I will share some highlights here. In April, we were honored to participate in the residency of contemporary Scottish composer James MacMillan. Together with several other church choirs, we presented a concert on April 4 featuring his music, including a newly commissioned work. In November, together with musicians from the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, we presented John Rutter's *Requiem*. This

was a beautiful way to honor those in our congregation who have died and bring comfort to their families.

The bell choir continues in their music-making as well. At the end of 2024, Marilyn Wahlstrom concluded her time as Interim Bell Choir Director, and I have since stepped into that role. The bell choir has grown musically. Their offerings have enriched our worship here at Central, including on festival days, such as Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday.

This year, we had two opportunities for our Sunday School children to present music in worship. In April, they presented a Palm Sunday Program. This was modeled after the Christmas Program, with readings and music interspersed. This was the first time doing something like this at Palm Sunday, and it was a great success! The Sunday School also presented the annual Christmas Program in December. In both cases, we spent several weeks ahead of time preparing the music in Sunday School, and the children did a beautiful job offering it in worship. In the past few years, there has not been critical mass for a formal children's choir offering here at Central. We will continue to evaluate if this is something we can bring back in a future year. However, these Sunday school music projects have been a real positive in terms of getting kids involved in worship leadership.

In 2025, we had the opportunity to host several significant musical events. In March, the choir from Augustana University, in Sioux Fall, SD, presented a concert here. In May, we hosted a joint concert with the choirs of St. Michael-Albertville High School, National Lutheran Choir, and Cantus. Finally, in October, we hosted the installation of the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Yehiel Curry. It is our privilege to host such significant and diverse musical events as these. Thank you to our wonderful staff and event volunteers for making this possible.

Last May, I had the opportunity to spend two weeks studying organ in and around

## Worship and Music Report (cont.)

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Paris. This included both repertoire and improvisation. During my time, I played on many historical instruments, attended concerts and masses, and explored other historical sites in the city. Some highlights included: practice time on the 19th century organ of the Abbey of Saint-Ouen in Rouen, lesson time on the 17th century organ of Cathédrale Saint-Pierre in Poitiers, and Ascension Day Mass at Saint-Eustache in Paris. In addition to instructional time, simply playing historical repertoire on the instruments for which it was conceived was instructive. The continuing education support that Central provides allowed me to take the time for this study, and offset much of the cost. I am grateful for this support which helps me keep learning about my craft, and better serve our church.

Music has long been one important way that we, as Christians, find our spiritual home. Last Advent, you may recall the theme from the *Centering* publication: “Jesus came to dwell with us, and we respond in song.” Advent is now over, yet our call to respond in song remains as strong as ever. As complex and often confusing as the events of our world are, music provides us the grounding to do God’s work. I am grateful for the myriad of people who help us lift our voices and instruments together.

*Isaac Drewes  
Director of Music and Principal Organist*

## Choir Report

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### **A Year of Song and Celebration at Central Lutheran Church**

This past year has been a remarkable season of music and ministry for Central Lutheran Church and the Central Choir—a true “Year

of the Central Choir.” Through collaboration, worship, and artistic excellence, the choir has helped deepen our shared faith life while extending Central’s musical presence beyond our walls and into the wider community.

One of the year’s most significant highlights was a special invitational performance with downtown Churches from across the Twin Cities. This collaborative concert brought together choirs and musicians in a powerful expression of unity through Sacred music. The event was held at the magnificent Cathedral of Saint Paul, whose soaring acoustics and sacred beauty provided an inspiring setting for the performance.

At the heart of the program was music by renowned Scottish composer Sir James MacMillan, one of the most important living voices in contemporary sacred music. His works, known for their emotional depth and spiritual intensity, offered both challenge and beauty to singers and listeners alike. In a remarkable honor for the participating churches, Sir MacMillan composed a special piece to celebrate this exchange, which he conducted, marking the occasion with music written specifically for the event. To sing a newly composed work by such a distinguished composer was a profound and unforgettable experience for our choir.

The Central Choir’s ministry also reached deeply into the life of our congregation through worship. At our All Saints service, the choir presented John Rutter’s *Requiem*, a work beloved for its tenderness, hope, and message of eternal rest. This moving performance was enriched by the participation of members of the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, whose artistry added depth and resonance to the service.

## Choir Report (cont.)

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Together, choir and instrumentalists helped create a space for remembrance, comfort, and quiet joy as we honored those who now rest in God's eternal care.

These musical milestones reflect more than successful performances—they represent the dedication, faith, and generosity of the choir members who give their time and talents in service to God and the church. The Central Choir continues to be a vital part of Central Lutheran's worship and outreach, reminding

us that music is not only something we hear, but something that forms us, connects us, and lifts our hearts in praise.

As we look ahead, we give thanks for this extraordinary year and for the music that continues to shape our life together at Central Lutheran Church.

*Joe Osowski  
Central Choir Director*

## Casavant Organ Report

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Central's Organ Renewal Project has two stages: the design contract, and the construction contract. Richards, Fowkes, and Company, have now completed the design contract, and we are in receipt of those designs.

In the first half of 2025, we were in the process of drawing up the construction contract. However, during that time, Richards/Fowkes informed us of a significant setback to the original production timeline. Given that new development, the organ committee is now reevaluating options. This includes the possibility of proceeding with a different builder, whose proposal would be based on the designs from Richards/Fowkes. As always, I am committed to doing this project *well*, even if it takes additional time. However, the timeline change does raise additional questions for the committee before we proceed.

Some have asked what the new timeline will look like. The simple answer is that we don't know yet. There is too much in flux right now to answer that question; any answer would simply be speculation. When we have a more concrete idea of what the path forward

will be, we will provide an update. In the meantime, the planned capital appeal is on hold. However, we have already received some gifts for the organ project, which will be escrowed and invested for future use.

As for the state of the organ, it is very similar to last year. Year round, about 15% of the organ is unusable due to electrical issues. During the winter, that number goes up to about 25% with winter dryness. For more information, please see the videos on our website: <https://www.centralmpls.org/casavant/>.

I know that the timeline setback may come as discouraging news. However, it is important not to lose sight of the proverbial forest for the trees. Once the project is completed, I believe these setbacks will pale in comparison to the beauty of the renewed instrument, serving many generations of future Central members.

*Isaac Drewes  
Director of Music and Principal Organist*



*Scan to look at the organ page of the website.  
casavant.org.png*

## Generosity Ministry Team Report

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Gratitude and generosity are central to our life together. On behalf of Central Lutheran's Generosity Ministry Team, thank you for the generosity shown in so many ways from all who call this place their church home.

The Generosity Ministry Team met six times during 2025 to plan and implement ideas to lead the year-round stewardship initiative at Central. We have a deep belief that all we have is entrusted to us by God and we are invited to share from our abundance with others.

Our January meeting focused on recapping the November 2024 stewardship appeal. In February, with the help of Central's creative staff, Valentines were sent to our members reminding all that "Thankfulness is my heart's natural expression." In June, the team hosted a Thank You/Gratitude Weekend related to being the light in the world. Inexpensive fiber optic light wands were distributed at services as a fun reminder.

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 19, the team hosted new members and congregational leaders, using Central's 2025-26 annual program theme "Stories from Home." 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 heard about how our congregation excels in generous acts within Central's programming and in our daily lives as part of our culture at Central.

We invited the congregation and those attending to contribute to a housewares drive for the Restoration Center's Welcome Baskets. Welcome Basket recipients are part of the Central community. As usual, the response was overwhelming. With a big boost from a Thrivent Action Grant, spearheaded by Generosity Team members Tom Edelen and Ken Hardy, we were able to gather enough items to make at least 25 baskets to bless those new to their homes.

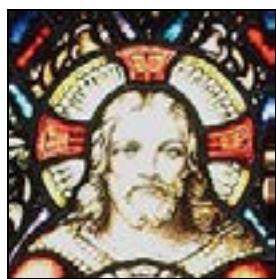
Our annual Fall Generosity Appeal took place in November. Throughout the month, the Generosity Team members shared weekly Wednesday devotions and weekend temple talks. Printed and digital stewardship packets were available. Decorated cornucopias at the altar rail were again used as physical reminders to give thanks during communion. Different themes were used each week. For Sabbath to End Homelessness weekend, worshippers contributed over \$4000 in small denomination gift cards for use in the Restoration Center. The effort concluded with the ingathering weekend on November 22-23 when financial intention cards were placed in the cornucopias. By the end of December 2025, 157 households made pledges for the coming year in excess of \$900,000 to support Central's ministries. Intentions can be made or updated at any time by contacting the Sara Masters. Each gift is important, and your faithfulness is a blessing.

A huge thank you and big note of appreciation to the Generosity Ministry Team members. They invest their time, talents, enthusiasm, creativity, can-do spirit and energy into our meetings and activities. Thank you to Ken Hardy and Tom Edelen, Deb Bauknight, Steve and Chris Dahlberg, Seth Peter, John Severtson, Ron Fiscus, and to Pastor Peter for his leadership.

*Kathy Fiscus*

# Columbarium Report

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## Central Lutheran Columbarium Association

### COLUMBARIUM ASSOCIATION BOARD

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

December 31, 2025

### Columbarium Association Annual Report

The Columbarium Association Board is grateful for the opportunity to share updates of 2025 with the Central Lutheran Church congregation. With 2024 marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Columbarium, we felt challenged to focus on what we could accomplish in 2025. Installation of the third wall increased the number of niches available to 306. New signage was added above the Columbarium entrance. Lovely wall covering was installed in all non-niche areas. Four chairs were added to accommodate the comfort of family members and visitors along with lovely tables stationed between the chairs. Two movable benches were added in the approach area, providing seating flexibility as needs require.

Special recognition and gratitude are expressed to David Wehrspann and the late Jim Snustad, Abitare Design Studio, for their exceptional design and creativity in bringing together the elements to create both a respectful and a distinguished environment.

We invite you to visit the Columbarium and experience its beauty and peace. If you are interested in additional information please contact Columbarium Association Board members, Pastor Peter Nycklemoe, or Michael Dee. The purchase process is very simple. If cremation is not your wish, we also have several gravesites available in three NE Minneapolis cemeteries at 50 percent current price.

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. In the care of the church, this sacred space provides a dignified, elegant, and peaceful resting place.

#### 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.
2025	Installation of third wall. Four chairs, two benches, two end tables, wallpaper and new signage over the columbarium entrance.
306	Number of total niches in Columbarium
94	Number of niches reserved in total as of December 31, 2025
5	Number of entombments in this calendar year (since January 1, 2025)
79	Number of entombments in total as of December 31, 2025

#### 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:

† Marie Elizabeth Thayer	† Marianne Helen Harju
† José Angel Elizalde	† Jacquelyn "Jackie" Thoreson
† Harold James Hoekstra	

#### Financial Statement – CLC Columbarium Association

Opening Balance	\$49,322.85
Niche Purchases	+\$14,500.00
Gifts	+\$22,005.00
Construction	- \$39,932.87
Décor	- \$24,544.00
Engraving	- \$1,280.66
<u>Misc. Expenses</u>	<u>-\$949.97</u>
<b>Closing Balance on 12/31/2025</b>	<b>\$19,120.35</b>

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

## Bishop's Report



# 2025 Annual Report

*"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.... Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many...If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." (1 Corinthians 12:7, 14, 26)*

This report to the worshipping communities of the Minneapolis Area Synod is an opportunity to look back on 2025, and to look ahead to 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 and our shared life as Church Together. We give thanks to you and your congregation for your partnership in this ministry we share, and for your Mission Support, financial commitments that fuel synod ministry as well as the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Together we accompany one another in times of challenge and joy, seeking the common good as we bear witness to the love of God that makes possible our love of neighbor. Below are a few highlights of 2025.

### Our Shared Life

- In May 2025, we lived out the theme Church Together at the annual Synod Assembly
- We hosted two Tool Kit workshops in 2025, one in March and one in November
- We started a monthly virtual learning series called Learn Together Over Lunch
- We gathered rostered leaders for two Ministerium events and the Bishop's Theological Conference
- The deans of the conferences hosted regular conference meetings and the Conference Assemblies in February
- Leaders grew in their work through Peer Groups and Power and Boundaries Workshops
- There were several other gatherings of Synod leaders: Children, Youth and Family leaders, Leaders of Color, Retired Pastors and Deacons, Communicators, and more
- Global partnerships were strengthened in 2025. Archbishop Musa Filibus from the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria visited in October and a few people from our Synod visited the Leipzig District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Saxony in September
- The new ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry was installed in October at Central Lutheran, Minneapolis
- Lay and rostered leaders have been exploring new partnerships, creative building use, and how best to steward resources.
- Our Executive Committee and Synod Council are restructuring how we fund ministry together, with a focus on more support for our New Start and Strategic communities.
- The Resurrection Fund began in 2017. Seeded by monies received at the Holy Closure of congregations, the fund makes possible a wide array of ministry across the synod, including a new round of Imagination Grants beginning in 2026.
- Following the adoption of a resolution on Immigration at Synod Assembly, an Immigration Task Force was formed to guide our action, and a Welcome Fund was created to channel support related to immigration.

Daily I see Jesus at work in and through you, dear Synod. Thank you for your dedication, for trusting me and our staff during the tender times, and for daring to boldly live into your faith and baptismal identity.

### Transitions in our Synod Staff

In 2025, Karen Ohm and Peg Ihinger retired, and we adjusted the portfolios for many of the synod staff.

Early in the year we welcomed six new staff members: Sarah Maslowski (CYF Connector), Liz Farmer (Assistant to the Bishop for Administration), Karen Alexander (Administrator for Candidacy, Roster, and Call Process), Pastor Jen Collins (Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Vitality), Pastor Ryan Fletcher (Director for Evangelical Mission), and Juan Gonzalez (Director of Family Faith).



With these changes comes much learning and growth, and some intentional changes to our processes. I'm excited about our team and the gifts we bring individually and collectively. Thanks for your patience as we grow into this new season.

You are in our prayers. God bless us with grace for this day and courage for tomorrow.  
In Christ, Bishop Jen Nagel



# 2025 Annual Report



**137**

worshipping communities,  
including 3 new starts and 8  
strategic ministries



**142,410**

baptized members in MAS  
worshipping communities



**11**

languages spoken in worship

## Leadership

**5** ordinations of new pastors and deacons

**215** pastors, deacons, and Synod-authorized ministers serving in faith communities

**21** rostered ministers installed into new positions

**67** pastors and deacons serving in specialized ministry

**50** people in candidacy program

**379** retired rostered ministers

**22** call processes in **21** faith communities

**18** rostered ministers on leave from call

## Leadership

**13** Conference Deans (serving 12 geographical conferences, and one for chaplains)

**17** Synod Council members

**78** serving on other Synod committees

**30** voting members attended the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix in August

## Initiatives

- To date, more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of our congregations are or have participated in Faith and Neighboring Practices, connecting deeply with neighbors in their community. We recently received another five-year grant from Lilly to continue scaling this program even more widely across the synod.
- Our second Lilly Funded grant, Family Faith, is taking root. It seeks to support parents and caregivers in sharing faith with their children in ethnic-specific and culturally-specific ways.
- 2025 launched the inaugural year of the Minneapolis Area Synod Youth Choir

## Mission Support

**\$2,643,049** Pledged by congregations in Mission Support, shared between MAS and ELCA - thank you!

## Align End-of-year Letter

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Dear Align Minneapolis Supporters,

Thank you for your generous support in 2025 of Align Minneapolis and our interfaith coalition to address homelessness. Your contributions supported Align's 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, prevent homelessness by keeping people in their homes, and partner with people with lived experience of homelessness.

Street Voices of Change continued their critical work to build community and make meaningful change. The group trained shelter staff from two adult shelters on the Shelter Resident's Bill of Rights and worked toward a state-level standard for shelter. Street Voices also worked toward goals of increasing access to restrooms, learning more about mental health support and understanding more about tenants' rights. SVoC members spoke at multiple venues including Align congregations, community events and the Align Fall Fundraiser. Street Voices continued to provide valuable input and feedback to the homeless response system and ensure the voices people with lived experience were heard by service providers, lawmakers, and Align partners.

Our congregational organizing work in 2025 included educational presentations and worship services focused on 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 secured a Senate author for the state-wide standard for shelter policy. The Align Organizing team represented 12 of the Align congregations and continued to bring the work of Align into their congregations through education sessions, activities, goods drives, book studies, volunteering and advocacy work.

Align's Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program provided direct assistance to 105 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. 76 of the households assisted were single adult or adult-only households, 29 were family households with minor children (total of 54 children). A total of \$143,899 in direct assistance was provided, with an average amount of assistance per household of \$1,370. All ERA recipients had at least one risk factor that increased their risk of falling into homelessness, and 89% had two or more risk factors.

StreetSong choir continued to be a place of joy and community that brings together people with lived experiences of homelessness and people who care about them. StreetSong began its 12<sup>th</sup> season in the fall, led by inspirational Director, Liz Digitale Anderson, and has continued to grow to include new singers, along with long-time members. In 2025 StreetSong performed at Homeless Day on the Hill, in Align congregations, at two collaborative concerts with other choirs, and at the Align Fall Fundraiser.

Looking ahead to 2026, Align will be completing a Strategic Planning process to continue to live into our vision that everyone has access to safe, decent, stable, and affordable housing in Minneapolis. 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](mailto:katie@alignmpls.org) | [alignmpls.org](http://alignmpls.org)

# CLC Foundation Report

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Despite the political ups and downs of our country and the world, the Foundation's portfolio of assets has stayed fairly stable over the past year. Over the long run, the asset portfolio has continued to grow. From 12/31/1992, when the assets were at five million dollars, the asset portfolio has grown to over twenty-seven million, as of 12/5/2025. This is due to generous contributions and good management of the assets by GS Investments. I might add that this final total is after distributing approximately one and a half million dollars to Central Lutheran Church. Because of the 3-year average formula, the percentage for distribution will remain at the present rate for 2026 of 6.25%.

Unlike most Foundations, Central Lutheran Church Foundation does not give grants but allows Central Lutheran Church to determine themselves how the distribution will be spent for the ongoing mission of the church.

The Foundation Board met on May 21, 2025, and again on December 10, 2025. The five committees continue to meet at various times during the year. These committees are essential to completing the ongoing needs of the Foundation business.

The Executive Committee met twice this year to determine the business to come before the Board and to set agendas. At the December meeting, I, Bonnie Weisenburger and Joyce Anderson, announced that we would not be running again for officer positions in May, and that Joyce would not run again as Board member and that I would be resigning my position as Board member. May of 2026 will be our last official meeting. This was a tough decision for us both as we love what we do and love working with the other Board members. But there comes a time...

Again, this year, the Foundation sponsored education forums for the congregation, under the direction of the Development Committee. In September, AAA came to present on Driving Safety and AARP did a presentation on Brain Health. In October, AARP also presented on Cyber Security. Our own clergy gave the last forum in November, for funeral planning. We appreciate those volunteer speakers who give of their time to keep us informed. Lastly, in December, our annual survivors luncheon took place at Jax Cafe.

Thank you to all of you who generously gave to the Foundation through memorials, Thrivent dollars, future legacy gifts, and out-right donations. It is so greatly appreciated and helps keep the future of Central Lutheran Church secure.

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), Peter Nycklemoe (Senior Pastor), Seth Peter, Charles (Chas) Scheiderer, Rexanne Spicer (CLC Congregation President), Steve Studt, and Bonnie Weisenburger (President).

Submitted with gratitude,  
Bonnie Weisenburger  
President

## Fiscal and Property Committee Report

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In accordance with Central Lutheran Church's Constitution, the Fiscal and Property Committee manages the assigned budget lines related to property; and advises the Congregation Council, as requested, on fiscal and property issues, decisions, and policies. 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.

Fiscal and Property reviews and advises on the annual operating budget prepared by staff, leading to a budget proposed to and voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Monthly meetings of Fiscal and Property focus on reviewing the financial statements, including the balance sheet, the statement of revenue and expense, and a summary of the designated accounts. Our objective is to ensure the financials accurately reflect the sources and uses of funds, adhere to the congregational approved budget, and ensure the procedures for recording financial activities provide transparency and accountability over the use of funds.

Regarding the physical property of Central Lutheran Church, we are also regularly appraising 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 provide guidance 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.

In 2025, we are pleased to report that many significant accomplishments were achieved because of the generosity of this congregation and the wise stewardship of the staff. These accomplishments included completing roof repairs, many maintenance projects to property and equipment, installation of upgraded teleconferencing and video equipment in Nativity, and congregational approved capital projects including boiler replacements, parking lot resurfacing, and parking ramp upgrades. All of this has been possible through the faithful giving of the congregation, special gifts and bequests, and the receipt of the final Employer Retention Credit refund from federal COVID-related funds.

This congregation has been abundantly blessed, and your leadership wisely stewards the resources entrusted to this faith community. Thank you for your financial support and partnership in the life of Central Lutheran Church.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Jerry Frick and Kevin Lile  
Co-chairs, Fiscal and Property Committee*

# Operations and Finance Report

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This is my third annual report as director of operations and finance. In 2022, I made the switch from communications director to my current role. I am so happy I did and the result was hiring the wonderful Brenda Blackhawk as Central's communications director.

Ok, on to recapping 2025.

The finances in 2025 were again steady and generous. As has been the case in the last three years, giving has been strong and this is the strongest it has ever been. We finished the year in giving with more than \$1.6 million in regular giving which is an operating surplus of more than \$213,000. Even with food costs rising and higher utility bills, we still were able to come in above budget and help those in need in our community and around the world.

## Foundation

One big reason why our cash position is so strong is because of the monthly revenue from the Foundation. This past year, we started getting \$108,000 a month, but then in July that was brought down to around \$100,000 because of a correction with the foundation's audit. So, even though we budgeted \$1.296 million to come from the Foundation, we only received \$1.249 million. We were able to absorb that \$47,000 loss. At their meeting in December, they are estimating sending Central \$112,000 a month in 2026, which comes to \$1.344 million. You can read the Foundation's annual report on page 27.

## Parking

Last year's parking revenue was more than \$475,000. It looks like it will be another big year for the parking lot with the auto show right away in January and all the other shows at the Convention Center. Again, this income helps fund the meals we serve on Mondays to the community, the staff that supports the Restoration Center, the direct assistance we provide, and Street Voices of Change.

## Events

2026 brings a few events to our building. In February, Iowa State, St. Michael High School Choir and Cantus will have a concert on Sunday, February 22. The Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (MSO) will be having a fundraising dinner also in February. May will be busy with a combined concert of National Lutheran Choir and the St. Olaf College choir. There will also be a MSO Concert and we will again host Luther Seminary's Commencement. With some weddings and another Hennepin Fix it Clinic later in the year, it will be busy as usual.

## Monday Counters

Thank you to our volunteers who come in each week and count the previous week/ weekend offering. Even with online giving, many still mail checks or give cash in the offering plate each week. We are thankful for all who give, doesn't matter how. Thank you to the counters: Susan, Paul, Leon, Ron, Steve, Mary, and Larry.

## 2024 Audit

Last year, the certified public accountants of Akins Henke and Company audited our 2024 financials and that clean audit report was presented to the Audit Committee and the Congregation Council reviewed a copy of it and accepted it.

*Sara Masters  
Director of Operations and Finance*

## Assets and Liabilities

	12/31/2025	12/31/2024	12/31/2023
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Operating</b>			
Operating Checking	\$271,769	\$327,352	\$204,878
Reserve Savings	\$26,092	\$105,128	\$102,582
Alerus Wealth Access	\$255,739	\$219,930	\$208,807
<b>Total Operating Assets</b>	<b>\$553,600</b>	<b>\$652,409</b>	<b>\$516,267</b>
<b>Designated Fund Asset Support</b>			
Designated Checking	\$214,868	\$374,593	\$82,304
Capital Reserve Savings	\$53,904	\$77,904	\$59,090
Life Insurance Cash Value	\$33,395	\$32,101	\$30,840
Schwab Stock Account	\$375,437	\$347,945	\$298,520
Schwab Liquid Account	\$1,304,343	\$1,762,618	\$1,290,951
MIF CD 20000008770	\$38,542	\$36,843	\$35,080
MIF CD 30000011864	\$90,192	\$86,391	\$82,389
<b>Total Designated Fund Asset Support</b>	<b>\$2,110,682</b>	<b>\$2,718,397</b>	<b>\$1,879,173</b>
<b>Assets Held for Others (fiscal agency)</b>			
Align ERA	\$75,383	\$72,814	\$129,667
Align Admin	\$53,788	\$35,162	\$28,317
Columbarium Checking	\$19,120	\$49,323	\$40,450
<b>Total Assets Held for Others (fiscal agency)</b>	<b>\$148,291</b>	<b>\$157,299</b>	<b>\$198,435</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Parking Lot	\$5,714,286	\$5,714,286	\$5,714,286
Building	\$17,130,000	\$17,130,000	\$17,130,000
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$22,844,286</b>	<b>\$22,844,286</b>	<b>\$22,844,286</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$25,656,859</b>	<b>\$26,372,390</b>	<b>\$25,438,161</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>			
Liability for Funds Held for Others	\$148,291	\$157,299	\$198,435
<b>Notes Payable</b>			
MIF Long Term Mortgage	\$5,136,388	\$5,294,827	\$5,447,735
MIF Short Term Mortgage	\$550,992	\$601,739	\$664,979
MIF Casavant Design LoC	\$0	\$300,000	\$0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$5,835,671</b>	<b>\$6,353,864</b>	<b>\$6,311,149</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			
Without Donor Restrictions	\$18,026,408	\$17,477,756	\$17,315,620
With Donor Restrictions	\$1,794,780	\$2,540,770	\$1,811,392
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$19,821,188</b>	<b>\$20,018,526</b>	<b>\$19,127,013</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$25,656,859</b>	<b>\$26,372,390</b>	<b>\$25,438,161</b>

## 2025 Designated Fund Summary

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<b>Accounts</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
ACTS	\$827	\$827
Align Temp Holding	\$0	\$0
Baptismal Font	\$2,361	\$2,361
Bequests	\$0	\$2,975
Book Club	\$600	\$5,207
Capital Appeal Holding Acct	\$993,436	\$877,511
Caring for Creation	\$2,293	\$518
Casavant Restoration Fund	\$75,189	\$104,644
Central Nursing Fund	\$1,143	\$1,143
Central Quilters	\$52	\$52
Circle of Hope	\$110	\$110
Columbarium Temp Holding	\$0	\$0
Communications/General	\$0	\$7,291
Community Ministry	\$25,836	\$52,244
CYF	\$62,046	\$65,762
Debt Reduction	\$0	\$915
Due TO operating account	\$37,000	\$0
ELCA World Hunger	\$0	\$200
Employee Retention Credit Refund	\$0	\$188,566
Fine Art Acquisition	\$13,497	\$6,099
Floral Guild	\$0	\$3,081
Foundation Designated Funds	\$0	\$0
Foundation Reserve	\$61,087	\$121,087
Gardening Corps	\$1,501	\$961
Global Missions	\$33,485	\$29,827
Insurance Claim Payments	\$571,985	\$0
Kitchen Fund	\$2,060	\$2,385
Library Reserve	\$6,660	\$6,295
Long-term Projects	\$169,293	\$139,293
Memorials	\$54,943	\$30,785
Music Commission	\$10,000	\$6,870
Music Fund	\$29,795	\$24,175
Parking Lot Easement	\$197,494	\$4,256
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$2,400	\$1,901
Peace & Justice Forums	\$1,507	\$1,507
Prayer Shawls	\$112	\$112
Repair Fund (Consumables)	\$122,567	\$62,121
Sanctuary Renewal	\$33,430	\$0
Saturday Night Worship	\$905	\$2,330
Sem Scholarships	\$8,032	\$5,032
Senior Adult Ministry	\$17,897	\$35,012
Sound and Technical	\$27	\$27
Staging Lift	\$1,000	\$1,000
Ukraine Crisis Response	\$200	\$300
<b>Total Restricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,540,770</b>	<b>\$1,794,780</b>

## 2025 Revenue and Expenses



## Proposed Budget for 2026

Accounts	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Actual 2025
<b>Revenues</b>			
Regular Offering	\$1,575,000	\$1,525,000	\$1,637,439
Building Usage Revenue	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$30,914
Parking Revenue	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$476,882
Foundation Revenue	\$1,344,000	\$1,296,000	\$1,249,668
Kitchen Cash Receipts	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$13,093
Donor Designated Restoration Ctr	\$160,000	\$145,000	\$145,001
Donor Designated Music	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Donor Designated CYF	\$55,000	\$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	\$20,000	\$117,972
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$5,000	\$50,000	\$58,931
Credit Card Processing Fees	\$0	\$0	\$1,964
<b>Total CLC Revenues</b>	<b>\$3,727,000</b>	<b>\$3,639,000</b>	<b>\$3,849,864</b>
<b>Other Revenues</b>			
Estate Gifts	\$0	\$0	\$6,667
Wedding and Funeral Services	\$1,500	\$0	\$18,102
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$3,728,500</b>	<b>\$3,639,000</b>	<b>\$3,874,633</b>

## Proposed Budget for 2026 (continued)

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Accounts	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Actual 2025
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Mission Emphasis (Benevolence)</b>			
ELCA Churchwide Partnership	\$90,000	\$66,000	\$66,000
Bread of Life Lutheran	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$24,996
St Pauls - San Pablo Lutheran	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
ELCA South Sudan Mission	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Young Adults Global Mission (YAGM)	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Bright Stars of Bethlehem	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Synod Nigeria Companion	\$12,000	\$0	\$0
Luther Seminary CPL	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Synod Leadership	\$6,000	\$12,500	\$12,500
MN Council of Churches	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Ignation Spiritual Project	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Lutheran Healthcare Bangladesh	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Lutheran World Relief	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Wycliffe-Follingstad	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Wycliffe-Gaultney	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Envision Community (tiny homes)	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
Align Mpls (Partner Support)	\$12,000	\$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	\$6,500	\$6,500
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$12,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Augsburg Health Commons	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Camp Amnicon	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
ReconcilingWorks	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$2,000
Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>Total Mission Emphasis (Benevolence)</b>	<b>\$337,000</b>	<b>\$354,500</b>	<b>\$354,496</b>
<b>Ministry Emphasis</b>			
Worship Life Ministry	\$30,500	\$30,000	\$28,699
Music Ministry	\$58,650	\$52,550	\$44,313
Children/Youth/Family Ministry	\$26,750	\$25,000	\$30,916
Community Ministry	\$178,500	\$169,950	\$167,794
Fellowship Ministry	\$41,500	\$42,500	\$37,503
Other Ministries	\$21,800	\$21,800	\$11,098
<b>Total Ministry Emphasis</b>	<b>\$357,700</b>	<b>\$341,800</b>	<b>\$320,323</b>

## Proposed Budget for 2026 (continued)

Accounts	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Actual 2025
<b>Facility Expenses</b>			
Building Operations	\$257,000	\$235,000	\$278,904
Utilities	\$167,000	\$162,000	\$161,264
Loans and Escrow	\$425,160	\$413,160	\$424,492
Exterior Maintenance	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$45,039
<b>Total Facility Expenses</b>	<b>\$897,160</b>	<b>\$858,160</b>	<b>\$909,699</b>
<b>Congregational Life</b>			
Administration	\$180,625	\$173,550	\$175,536
Council & Committees	\$5,500	\$5,700	\$7,400
Communications	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$6,625
Banking, Legal, and Audit	\$33,000	\$34,000	\$29,101
<b>Total Congregational Life</b>	<b>\$227,625</b>	<b>\$221,750</b>	<b>\$218,661</b>
<b>Personnel</b>			
Facility Staff	\$127,934	\$123,013	\$123,034
Ministry & Admin Staff	\$942,498	\$928,073	\$902,991
Security & Restoration Staff	\$370,750	\$371,794	\$385,652
Employee Benefits	\$376,324	\$344,896	\$347,967
Continuing Education	\$21,225	\$20,225	\$16,048
Mileage & Expense Accounts	\$9,500	\$12,500	\$13,531
Misc Personnel Expense	\$58,702	\$58,944	\$66,851
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$1,906,933</b>	<b>\$1,859,445</b>	<b>\$1,856,073</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,726,418</b>	<b>\$3,635,655</b>	<b>\$3,659,253</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$2,082</b>	<b>\$3,345</b>	<b>\$215,380</b>

\* The figures on pages 30-34 reflect the balance as of 12/31/25. Balances could change if expenses from 2025 come in after this report went to print.

# Nominating Committee Report

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

## **Council:**

President: Allison Eger – two-year term  
Vice President: Susan Troselius – two-year term  
Secretary: Sara Gunsch – two-year term  
Treasurer: Ron Fiscus – one year remaining on term

## **At Large:**

Jenna Harvieux – two-year term  
Phil Holst – two-year term  
PJ Ritters – one year remaining on term  
Laurel Stewart – one year remaining on term  
Christopher McCarty – one year remaining on term  
Janice Divine-Ruggles – one year remaining on term

## **Nominating Committee:**

Chair: Sara Stensaas – one year remaining on term  
Ben Berg – two years remaining on term  
Nancy Tykwinski – two years remaining on term  
Ben Longman – one year remaining on term  
Leon Tibben – one year remaining on term  
Sara Gunsch – one year remaining on term  
Liz Paleen – three year term  
Jeff Ruprecht – three year term  
Bruce Hjerpe – three year term

## **Audit Committee:**

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

## **Synod Assembly:**

Christa Olson  
Rexanne Spicer  
Jeff Block

## **In gratitude for your service:**

President: Rexanne Spicer  
Secretary: Heidi Tysk-Poppe  
Council: Julie Anderson and Rachel Moeller  
Nominating: Eric Penne, Claire Johnson, and Meghan Eliason  
Synod Assembly: Karen Knox and Judith Hedman



# Exploring the Promise of God for All

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You are welcome.  
No exceptions.



Central Lutheran  
MINNEAPOLIS

AN EVERY DAY CHURCH FOR EVERYONE

333 S. 12th St., Minneapolis, MN 55404  
(612) 870-4416 • [centralmpls.org](http://centralmpls.org)

**MEMBERS OF**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

Align Minneapolis • [www.alignmpls.org](http://www.alignmpls.org)

Reconciling Works • [www.reconcilingworks.org](http://www.reconcilingworks.org)

