



West Clermont Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: Monday thru Friday
8:30am-1:30pm

Council President

Jed Dean

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Vicar

Mike Erickson

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December 2023 Newsletter



From Vicar Mike: Christmas 2023

It's hard to believe that another year has passed, and we are almost at Christmas again. It is also time to start a new year for the church starting with Advent. We start Lectionary Year B in the three-year rotation. This next year will be the year of Mark. There will be a few times we will get to hear John again, but the Gospel of Matthew has been put away for a few years and Luke must wait another year.

Mark is the shortest Gospel. It has been referred to as a "just the facts" kind of Gospel. It is short and to the point. It is less complex and wordy than the other Gospels. "It works as a story told from beginning to end, the sort of story that one might have heard read aloud in a single sitting."¹

We start the Advent Season waiting for the birth of our Lord and Savior. We enter a season of longing and a season of hope. We wait for Christ's arrival that happened over two thousand years ago and the arrival that is yet to come. As we await the arrival of Jesus, God grant that you have a blessed Christmas and Advent Season!

Peace,

Vicar Mike

¹ Mark Alan Powell, *Introducing The New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2018), 142.



West Clermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting- November 1, 2023

Present: Diane Butikofer, Randy Wiedenhoff, Tasha Massman, Brant Schrader, Isaiah Ruckdashel, Kyle Wander, Vicar Mike Erickson

Brant, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Pastor Mike opened with prayer.

Motion made by Randy to approve the agenda. Isaiah second, motion carried.

October minutes were reviewed. Correction to the minutes, Tasha will make correction on the snow removal. Jim Matt is removing snow from church sidewalks. Dillion will continue to remove snow from parking lot. Motion made by Randy to approve. Diane second, motion carried.

Vicar's Report: Vicar Mike has completed his internship! In December approval interview will start the process with him working towards getting. Clermont Community

Treasurer report: Ham ball fundraiser dollars was put into the property maintenance fund. Pending correction on her report, report will be emailed to council members to approve pending correction. Motion made by Tasha. Brant second, motion carried.

Old Business:

A. Fall Dinner was Sunday, Oct. 22nd. **Funds raised approx: \$3,688.59**

B. 175th Clermont Celebration Food Booth. This would be following the parade on July 6th from 11:30ish until 2ish in the park. Committee would like to know what we play to do as they are deciding if they should allow food trucks. We will table this idea on having a food stand for the next meeting. Will know more information next month after Clermont meeting.

New Business:

A. Christmas Events & Schedule:

a. Church Decorating: Advent begins, November 26th the weekend of Thanksgiving. Jess Dean is the sponsor for Luther League. Will ask if they are interested.

b. Christmas Caroling: Will contact Stephanie to see if she could be interested in coordinating a group to go caroling to shut ins, nursing home, or Facebook here in the church. Will table this to see what the interest is in doing this year.

c. Children's Program: Sunday, December 17th @ 9:30am.

d. Christmas Eve: Vicar Mike will hold 2 services. Christmas Eve day service at regular time 9:30 am, and candlelight service Christmas Eve held at 7 pm.

e. Christmas Day- There will not be a service held on Monday Christmas day.

B. SOTH Christmas for Kids. Will be listed in the bulletin for members to donate to SOTH. Can donate funds or provide gifts. Will still plan to continue with the giving tree here for two families & operation Christmas child.

C. Solar Panels: There is a program hopefully by the annual meeting Vicar Mike will have more information on what benefits this could be for the church.

Announcements

A. New Refrigerator in kitchen thanks to WELCA Rummage/Bake Sale earnings. Old refrigerator in hallway was hauled out by Alliant, with a \$50 rebate.

B. Copper Creek Service is Wed., Nov. 8th @ 11am.

C. November Senior Fun Day is Wednesday, November 8th from 2-4pm.

D. Operation Christmas Child is Wed., Nov. 15th @ 6pm. Meal provided.

E. Thankoffering Sunday is November 19th.

F. Giving Tree. We are once again working with Parent Share & Support. Tree up by November 19th.

G. Thanksgiving Eve Service is @ 7pm.

H. **Vicar Mike Vacation** is Thurs., Nov. 23rd- Sun., Nov. 26th.

a. **Pr. Lori Kleppe** will offer Pulpit Supply for Nov. 26th.

I. **Vesper Service** is at the Union Sunday School on Sun., Dec. 3rd @ 4:30pm.

Motion made by to Isaiah adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Randy second, motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



WELCA Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 1, 2023

WELCA Board met on November 1, 2023 @ 1:04 pm. Those attending were: Linda Hyde, June Swenson, Mae Becker, Deb Guyer and Marcia Wiedenhoff.

Secretary's Report: Minutes read individually. June / Deb / Carried

Treasurer's Report: Checking balance: \$3817.25 Savings balance: \$2775.04 Quilting fund: \$549.40

Motion to approve: Mae / Linda / Carried

Old Business:

1. **LWR Truck:** November 4. Marcia will deliver to Decorah.
2. **Thank Offering;** Marcia updated a reminder letter and was put in with the newsletter.
3. **Little Flock Cluster B Fall Gathering:** Marcia attended. 144 women attended at Littleport.
4. **Trunk or Treat:** Gave 160 Rice Krispie bars. Ran out. Approximately 180 kids came.
5. **Altar Cloth protector:** New vinyl replaced the old.
6. **Clermont 175th and Montauk 150th:** some discussion. Tabled.

New Business:

1. **Correspondence:** EWALU thank you of \$100, Thank you from Shepherd of the Hill for pies and quilt donation.
2. **New Refrigerator for Kitchen:** \$1070.00 to Andy Butikofer for new unit. Old refrigerator unit in hallway was recycled by Alliant Energy for a \$50 refund. Old kitchen unit will now be in the hallway. Units in the hallway will be used for extra space when needed.
3. **Shepherd of the Hill:** Asking churches to do Theme Quilts for next year's Hog Roast to be either auctioned or raffled. Marcia will talk to Rose Schutte for ideas and the quilting ladies will help. This will be machine quilted to bring more value to the quilt. Mae/ Deb / Carried.
4. **Mitten Tree:** Sarah Circle is in charge of this.
5. **Family Gift Tag Tree:** WELCA will help with the cost to fill any unfilled tags. Mae / June / Carried
6. **Disbursements for 2023:** Discussion on increasing the dollar amounts given this year. Last year we disbursed \$500.00 because our funds were low. Motion to double each donation to make the total giving to \$1,000.00. Mae / Linda

Fayette County Food Shelf - \$200

ELCA Good Gifts - \$200

EWALU - \$100

LSI - \$100

Helping Hands - \$100

Chaplaincy Fund - \$100

Global Ministries - \$100

Katie's Fund - \$100

Sunday coffee Schedule: November - Mary December - Ruth. January – Sarah

Coffee Hour Area (Yearly): Mary **Kitchen** (Yearly) : Ruth **Altar Duties** (September - December): Ruth

Motion to Adjourn: 1:48pm Linda / Mae / Carried **Closing:** The Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: *December 6, 2023* @ 1:00

Submitted: *Marcia Wiedenhoff*, Board President/Secretary



December, 2023

DATE	READER	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION	BREAD
12/3*	Stephanie Spain	Keegan Klemp	Jess Dean	Stephanie Spain
12/10	Deb Guyer			
12/17	Children's	Christmas	Program	(Mark Erickson-acolyte)
12/24*	Aaron Steffens	Natalie Bassett	June Swenson	Arline Davisson
12/24*	Mark Nelson	Sutton Schrader	Mark Nelson	Zelpha Henderson
12/31	Rodney Wagner	Taylor Dean		

December Ushers: Vernon Oakland, Mark Nelson, Al Amundson



Birthdays This Month **DECEMBER**

12/03 Becker Mae
12/06 Helgerson Danielle
12/14 Dean Jed
12/20 Ealey Ryker
12/25 Amundson Mary

12/05 Kress Isaac
12/09 Kohls Shirley
12/16 Stumme Madonna
12/22 Henderson Bert
12/29 Dean Jessica

12/06 Helgerson Asher
12/12 Billmeyer Nalla
12/18 Lerch Avery
12/22 Siebrecht Jed



Offerings: October 22 – November 19, 2023

Sunday, October 22, 2023

Hamball: \$3,331.00

Regular: \$399.00

Prop Maint: \$20.00 IMO Rodney Guyer

Total General Fund: \$3,835.95

Mem Fund: \$340.00 IMO Rodney Guyer

Roof: \$180.00

Attendance: 40

Loose: \$ 31.00

Basement Rental: \$25.00

Noisy Can: \$29.95

Sunday, October 29, 2023

Loose: \$21.00

Regular: \$875.00

Prop Maint Fund: \$675.00 (hamball)

Total General Fund: \$1,684.18

Roof: \$90.00

Mem Fund: \$90.00

- IMO Rodney Guyer \$20.00

- IMO Shirley Rowland \$20.00

- IMO Joseph Guyer \$50.00

Attendance: 57

Noisy Can: \$34.43

Copies: \$3.75

Flow Thru: \$75.00 (programs)

Sunday, November 5, 2023

Loose: \$31.00

Regular: \$2,989.00

Total General Fund: \$3,081.32

Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 54

Hamball: \$20.00 (property maint)

Noisy Can: \$41.32

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Loose: \$66.00

Regular: \$1,124.00

Basement Rental: \$60.00

Total General Fund: \$1,472**Attendance: 58**

Hamball: \$45.00 (property maint)

Noisy Can: \$43.35

Flow Thru: \$133.68

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Noisy Can: \$31.36

Regular: \$423.00

Total General Fund: \$455.36

Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 44

Loose: \$1.00

December 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story**Merry Christmas from LSI!**

At LSI, we recognize that the holiday season can be a challenging time for many, especially for the populations we serve throughout the year.

We know parents who feel hopeless, with few resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know immigrants and refugees working to become U.S. citizens, with little community support or help along the way. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, fearing they will never have a forever home.

In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season.

As we reflect on the past year, we thank you — our generous supporters and community partners — for stepping up to give and help the people LSI is privileged to serve. We are grateful for your contribution in bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these essential services.

LSI wishes you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.Iowa.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2023

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“It’s a wonderful time of year!”

Christmas for Kids is scheduled for December 13-14, 2023. We are looking for donations of toys and or monetary donations for this event. If your church or business would like to do a collection drive, please let me know. All donations can be brought to the office at SOTH or to the auditorium by appointment. We will be setting up in the auditorium on December 7, 8 and 11th, so if you would like to bring your items without an appointment, we will be open those days. If you would like to volunteer for set-up days or the shopping days, please let me know. This is a huge event for our area. We could not do this without the help and generosity of our community, churches, businesses and the hard-working volunteers. I would like to thank everyone for showing the kindness and support to those in need, especially to the children.

Coats for Kids is also happening now through the winter months. If you know a child in need of a warm coat for the winter, please let me know.

Clothing center updates

We have a great selection of winter clothing out for sale. Most of our items are only \$1.00. All donations **MUST** have an appointment to be accepted. No large items (Furniture, appliances, beds etc.) accepted.

Please note the following CLOSED DATES:

November 23 and 24th (Thanksgiving) and December 13 & 14 (Holiday Shop)
December 25-31 (Christmas Break)

Shepherd Conference News

Nothing new to report this month.

Shepherd of the Hill’s Needs:

The **Operating Fund** pays the utilities, insurance on the building, supplies, salaries and Lawn/Snow Care.

The **Crisis Fund** is used to help families with emergency rent or utilities and our sponsored events throughout the year

Please utilize the **MEMO LINE** on your check to specify Crisis or Operating Fund!

IMPORTANT DATES:

*Christmas for Kids:
Dec 13-14, 2023*

*Conference Assembly
February 2024*

*St. John’s- Guttenberg
(Date to be announced soon)*

Any event may be subject to change

Shepherd of the Hills

Heather Hageman

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Fax: 563-783-2428

E-mail: shephill@neitel.net

**Business Hours: Monday-Friday
9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm**

Prayer List

Requested: Jeanette (Davisson) Cain, Don Erickson, Ken Erickson, Jake Noggle, Karen Guyer, Lynzee Henrikson-Makowski, Karen Kohls, Ardell Fortune, Inez Oakland, Julie Albertson, Danice Cummings, Larry Kohls, Bridgit & Elliot Dundee, Gary Kittleson, Elaine Noggle, Jennifer Ruckdashel.


Assisted Living, Nursing Homes & Shut-Ins: Millard Nelson, Betty Erickson, Gail Herman, Marilyn Knutsen, Bud Siebrecht, Karen Follett, Judy Nelson.

In the Military: Jeff Kleppe, Nathan Guyer, Major Stephanie Wilkins, Kennedy White.



Our thoughts and prayers for the family and friends of John Yauslin who passed away on Nov. 20th.



 **Noisy Can Offering** for 4th Quarter (Oct.-Dec.) will go to Molly Holthaus to assist with extra costs associated with medical treatment. Molly was hit by a car in the NFV high school parking lot.



Quilting is on Tuesday's @ 9am. All are welcome! Come join the fun!



WELCA Circles will meet on Wednesday, December 20th: 9am-Sarah Circle; 1pm- Mary Circle; 2pm-Ruth Circle.



Senior Game Day is Wednesday, December 13th from 2-4pm @ West Clermont Lutheran. Please come for fellowship, snacks, cards, games, and FUN! Bring a friend!



Christmas Giving Tree is up. We are sponsoring 2 families again this year! Please take tags from the tree, purchase the item on the tag, wrap the item with the tag on it, and return it to the tree by Sunday, December 10th.



Luther League will meet on Wednesday, December 6th @ 6pm, where you will be making tie-blankets. Meal and snacks provided.



Operation Christmas Child. We had a crew of 20 youth plus several adults who packed 115 boxes for boys and girls in need. Thank you to all who donated money, items, and time into this event!



SOTH Christmas for Kids is Dec. 13th & 14th. Currently collecting new toys, gifts, or gift cards thru Dec. 11th. Monetary donations may be made & SOTH staff will purchase gifts. Drop off days are Dec. 7th, 8th, & 11th @ St. Olaf Auditorium. If your family would like to participate, a referral is needed. For questions, call the SOTH office @ 563-783-2409



Hat & Mitten Tree is up. Collection of hats, gloves, mittens, scarfs and socks will go through the Christmas season to be donated to an area charity.



Community Choir is being formed for the Annual Vesper Service is Sunday, Dec. 3rd @ 4:30pm at the Union Sunday School. Those interested, please be at the Union Sunday School by 3:45pm for practice. The choir will be singing a couple of carols.



Ecumenical Vespers Service is Sunday, December 3rd, beginning at 4:30pm at the Union Sunday School. A Clermont tradition for over 100 years.



Nominations are now open for council positions and various church committees for 2024. Please prayerfully consider how you can play a leadership role at West Clermont. If you are interested in any position, please contact a member of council or someone currently serving on the committee you are interested in.



The **23rd Annual Decorah Chorale "Home for Christmas" concert** will be held Saturday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. at Decorah Lutheran Church. This benefit concert will support the work of Winneshiek County Habitat for Humanity and Decorah Area Food Pantry through the concert free-will offering.



2024 Offering Envelopes will be available beginning Sunday, December 10th.



The Messiah. The 82nd performance of Handel's Messiah will take place on Sunday, December 10th @ 7pm at the United Methodist Church in West Union.



Children's Christmas Program is Sun., Dec. 17th @ 9:30am.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is Sunday, December 24th @ 7pm. No services on Christmas Day.



The church office will be closed Dec. 25th & 26th for Christmas.

