



## 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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## January 2024 Newsletter



### From Vicar Mike: The Season of Epiphany 2024

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate Epiphany. Epiphany reveals Jesus to the world. In Matthew 2:1-12, the magi bring gifts to honor Jesus. The symbolic meaning of each gift tells part of the story of who Jesus is: gold for a king, frankincense to honor the divine, myrrh for burial. We bring gifts to Jesus in our lives too in the form of our time, our labor, our talents, and our monetary offerings.

During the time after Epiphany, the church celebrates the gift of the gospel being shared throughout the world. There is no better reminder of this gift than the arrival of the magi. These are Gentiles, not Jews, the wrong people to show up. Even worse, they were astrologers, a practice forbidden by the Torah. Yet these are the people who travel long days to bring amazing gifts to Jesus. Surely the birth of Jesus is a gift for all people everywhere.

Discerning signs from God in our lives is often difficult. The Epiphany star was a sign from God that the magi knew to follow. God has not stopped giving signs to the world, and there are often “stars” in our lives that lead us to Jesus. Think about the times in your life when you had to make a big decision. What helped you make that decision? Did you ask God to help you? Did you receive some kind of sign? Let’s spend a little more time this year in prayer with God and look for the signs he gives us. Who knows what gifts we might find? We might find Jesus in the places we least expect. Amen.

As we close out a very busy year, we look forward to another busy year. Right out of the gate we have a Special Congregational Meeting on January 7 for a Call Vote. We have our Congregational

Annual Meeting on January 21. Finally, assuming the Call Vote goes well, there will be an Ordination on February 3. That is all in the first five weeks of 2024. We also look forward to a Confirmation Service in April, graduations in May, and Clermont's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in July. There are many more things to look forward to in 2024, but this is just a taste of what is in the year to come.

Wishing you God's Peace in the new year,

Vicar Mike



### **West Clermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting- December 6, 2023**

Present: Jed Dean, Diane Butikofer, Randy Wiedenhoff, Tasha Massman, Brant Schrader, Isaiah Ruckdashel, Kyle & Kathy Wander, Wendy Steffans, Vicar Mike Erickson

Jed called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Pastor Mike opened with prayer.

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

November minutes were reviewed. Motion made by Isaiah to approve. Wendy second, motion carried.

**Vicar's Report:** Vicar Mike gave an overview on the past months of involvement with baptisms, funerals, weddings, communions. Vicar Mike has an upcoming final interview with Pastor Brackett.

WELCA has asked to be involved with the round robin for Lenten services. Council thought attending other churches in our area was a good option. Vicar Mike will reach out to local churches for this after Christmas. WELCA asked to have the church open at 6 a.m. on funeral days for members to be able to drop off food before work. Will have it posted for someone to have a church key to do this. WELCA will be purchasing some roasters for the church to use. Dillion will be charging \$75 for each snow removal this winter.

Check from Historical society for \$25 will be moved to the choir music fund.

**Treasurer report:** Received a donation that is designated for the memorial fund. Motion made by Brant to move \$3629.80 from property maintenance fund to the general fund. Tasha second, motion carried. Motion made by Isaiah to approve the treasurer report. Diane second, motion carried.

Jed reviewed the monthly bills. Motion made by Kyle to pay the monthly bills. Isaiah second, motion carried.

Budget 2024- We worked through and have a purposed budget.

Synod Giving 2024- The synod is starting up a lay ministry training program. Asking for money for this program. The committee will be renamed mutual ministry committee.

Thanksgiving Eve Service donations brought in \$102.00. That money will be used to restock our own food pantry in entryway.

### **Old Business:**

**A. 175<sup>th</sup> Clermont Celebration food booth.** No interest from church members. Our members would like to attend these festivities.

**B. Solar panels-** Tabled idea with some information on solar panels to bring this idea to the annual meeting. Received one quote for \$33,500 for Ken's electric. There are rebates available.

### **New Business:**

**A. Council and Committee nominations.** Jed, Brant, and Jesse will be off council in 2024 and will serve as the nominating committee. Need 3 council representatives and 1 youth rep.

## B. Annual Meeting Date

- a. **Reports- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in January- Jan 21<sup>st</sup>. Back up date Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>** due to office by December 29<sup>th</sup>. Treasurer after first of year.

C. **Thanksgiving Offering:** \$102.00. Had 22 attend.

D. **2024 Wages.** Worked through wages with the budget for 2024.

E. **SOTH Conference Annual Assembly** is February 18<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm and is being held @ St. John's in Guttenberg. Will advertise this assembly.

F. **Other.**

## Announcements

### A. Christmas Events & Schedule:

- a. **Church Decorating:** completed on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.
- b. **Christmas Caroling:** looking @ Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>
- c. **Children's Program-** Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am.
- d. **Christmas Eve-** morning (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent) @ 9:30am. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7pm. Both will have communion.
- e. **Christmas Day-** no service

B. **Operation Christmas Child** packed 115 boxes this year.

C. **John Yauslin** passed away on November 20<sup>th</sup> & **Elliott Olson** passed away on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

D. **Elaine Noggle** transferred membership and joined West Clermont.

E. **Copper Creek Service** is Wed., Dec., 13<sup>th</sup> @ 11am.

F. **December Senior Fun Day** is Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm.

G. **Noisy Can 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter-** to Karen Guyer.

H. **2024 Offering Envelopes** will be available beginning December 10<sup>th</sup>.

I. **Giving Tree** items are due back December 10<sup>th</sup>.

J. **Other.**

Motion made by to Randy adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Wendy second, motion carried.  
We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



## **WELCA Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday December 6, 2023**

WELCA Board met on December 6, 2023 @ 1:05pm. 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: \$2538.17 Savings balance: \$2775.61 Quilting fund: \$549.40  
Motion to approve: Mae/ June /Carried

## Old Business:

1. **New Refrigerator for Kitchen:** Installed and Old Refrigerator from kitchen is in the hallway along with the freezer. They have been cleaned out and will be used for extra storage when needed.
2. **Thankoffering 2023:** Total so far \$602.87.
3. **Theme Quilt for Shepherd of the Hill 2024 Hog Roast:** WELCA will fund the material and machine quilting cost. Marcia is working with Rose Schutte on the quilt.

4. **Disbursements for 2023:** Total giving was \$1000.
5. **Family Gift Tag Tree:** WELCA covered the cost of the remaining tags of \$101.03. We helped cover the cost of discontinued items from a Thrivent Card of \$219.45. In return we get to use the balance of the Thrivent card for what we feel necessary.
6. **Clermont 175th and Montauk 150th:** Talked about putting together some sort of a parade entry to also be used in the Elgin Homecoming Parade, the week before. Will be in contact with other West Clermont groups to maybe do a joint entry. Not in favor of a food stand.

### **New Business:**

1. **Correspondence:** Thank you from: LSI, Fayette County Food Shelf, EWALU, Global Health Ministries and Helping Services.
2. **2024 Election of Officers:** Marcia and Deb offered to remain in office. Motion for President/Secretary: Marcia W. Treasurer: Deb G. Mae / June / Carried
3. **Circle Treasurers:** Turn in yearly accounts to Deb Guyer ASAP following December meetings.
4. **Roasters:** Request for more roasters to be available for larger meal events. WELCA will use part of the Thrivent card to purchase 3 units. Deb / June / Carried
5. **WELCA Directory:** Phone #s and addresses are continuing to be updates as members contact the office.
6. **Lent Services:** Ash Wednesday is February 14. Waiting to hear if area churches will celebrate the season together again this year.
7. **Virtual Blue Christmas:** June shared the posting in the Gather magazine of this service. Asked for it to be announced in the bulletin.
8. **Church Open Early for Funerals and Special Events:** Linda shared the idea of the Church being open early for Funerals and Special events so members can deliver food items directly to the church. Vicar Mike was to mention it to the Council. Seeking a few volunteers who are willing to open the church by 6:00am.
9. **Care for Fresh flowers/plants and Seasonal Decor:** A circle will be assigned this duty as part of our Yearly duties. 2024 will be *Ruth Circle*.

**Sunday coffee Schedule:** December - *Ruth*. January - *Sarah* February – *Mary*  
 Coffee Hour Area (Yearly) : *Mary* Kitchen(Yearly) : *Ruth* (Add in 2024)Fresh Flowers/plants  
 and Seasonal Decor (Yearly): Altar Duties ( September - December): *Ruth*

Motion to Adjourn: 2:00 Linda / Mae / Carried

**Closing:** The Lord's Prayer **Next Meeting: January 3, 2023 @ 1:00**

Submitted: *Marcia Wiedenhoff*, Board President/Secretary



## **January, 2024**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>READER</b>	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	<b>COMMUNION</b>	<b>BREAD</b>
1/7*	Natalie Bassett	Bella Dirksen	Kayleen Schrader	Karen Kohls
1/14	Stacy Cummings	Ryan Dean		
1/21	Teagan Schrader	Brailyn Dirksen		
1/28*	Taylor Dean	Keegan Klemp	Deb Guyer	Marlene Yauslin

**January Ushers: Brant Schrader and Jed & Peyton Dean**



# Birthdays This Month January

01/01 Rowland Vicki  
01/09 Wander Daniel  
01/15 Steffens Alan  
01/20 Severson LuAnn  
01/23 Monteith Kenny  
01/25 Kress Steven  
01/30 Loftsgard Roger

01/04 Anderson Emma  
01/15 Hyde Dustin  
01/15 Swenson Richard  
01/20 Spain Spencer  
01/23 Nelson Danyell  
01/28 Massman Kyla  
01/31 Anderson April

01/09 Dean Peyton  
01/15 Noggle Elaine  
01/18 Wilker Ronna  
01/23 Amundson LuAnn  
01/24 Nelson Ayva  
01/29 Lerch Maxwell



## Offerings: November 22, 2023 – December 17, 2023

### Wednesday, November 22, 2023

Cash Donations: \$102.00

Attendance: 22

### Sunday, November 26, 2023

Copies: \$6.00

Loose: \$21.00

**Total General Fund: \$453.45**

Roof: \$90.00

Memorial Fund – IMO Johnny Yauslin

Attendance: 30

Regular: \$405.00

Noisy Can: \$21.45

### Sunday, December 3, 2023

Copies: \$3.00

Property Improv: \$20.00

Regular: \$5,857.38

**Total General Fund: \$5,914.41**

Roof: \$90.00

Memorial: \$2,000.00

Attendance: 46

Loose: \$1.00

Noisy Can: \$33.03

### Sunday, December 10, 2023

Flow Thru: \$320.48

Noisy Can: \$51.78

Regular: \$1,203.00

**Total General Fund: \$1,656.26**

Memorial Fund: \$50.00-IMO Elliott Olson \$25.00 -Choir Music \$25.00

Attendance: 56

Loose: \$1.00

Basement Rental: \$80.00

### Sunday, December 17, 2023

Loose: \$147.00

Regular: \$583.00

**Total General Fund: \$809.65**

Memorial Fund: \$60.00-IMO John Yauslin

Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 89

Noisy Can: \$59.65

Initial: \$20.00

# Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

## NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2024

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“And that is a wrap”! Christmas for Kids was a huge event. We expected over 500 children and we were able to serve 491. Between Toys for Tots and our communities, we were able to fulfill the task of providing Christmas for kids in need. It was such a blessing to see the generosity of the churches, businesses and individuals this year.

This is one of the largest tasks that I have as a job requirement. Months of organizing, buying pajamas (which by the way, I hope I don't look at for a while), getting volunteers lined up and focusing on donations.

A huge thank you goes to my hard-working elves! Those volunteers were so dedicated, eager and helpful. So many laughs, stories, great food and of course toys, toys, and more toys! I cannot lie... I may have played with a few along the way.

Our region in Iowa is considered a very poverty-stricken area, but from what I just witnessed, we have the biggest heart! The feedback that I have received is that the clients were VERY appreciative, impressed and over-whelmed with the gifts they received. Thank you goes out to everyone as it takes a village to make this event a success.

### *Clothing Center Updates:*

The clothing center will be closed from December 25-January 1, 2024. We have been blessed that people choose to bring their items here, but we have to have organization for this process. Therefore, we will be enforcing the policy of having a scheduled appointed day for drop offs. Having this appointment allows us to schedule a volunteer to help sort so we can continue to accept donations all week long. This also allows me to schedule my time to get other duties such as preparing my special projects, book work and conference duties done. I am beyond grateful for everyone that has visited and donated as we do want this to be your one stop local thrift store shop!

### *Shepherd Conference News:*

Our annual Conference Assembly will be February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.  
The meeting will take place at St. John's in Guttenberg starting at 2:00 pm.  
Alternative weather date will be February 25, 2024.  
Please make sure you have your church delegates in attendance.

#### **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:**

**Conference Assembly**  
**February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**St. John's- Guttenberg**

\*Any event may be subject to change\*

#### **Shepherd of the Hills**

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**9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm**



## **January 2024, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story**

### **Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families**

Individuals struggle without access to critical healthcare and family support services. Human service providers are overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants strive to build new lives in the U.S.

These are all issues faced by Iowans from all different walks of life. Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) to advocate for our community members at Lutheran Day on the Hill (LDH) on **Monday, February 19, 2024.**

In partnership with the three Iowa synods of the ELCA, LDH is LSI's biggest day of advocacy. Over 150 participants gather at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines to learn about critical issues Iowa children, adults, and families are facing. You'll learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices.

After learning how to advocate for our neighbors, the group heads to the Iowa State Capitol to talk directly with legislators.

For more information and to register for this year's Lutheran Day on the Hill, visit [LSIowa.org/LDH](http://LSIowa.org/LDH).

*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](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*




**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, Gary Kittleson, Elaine Noggle, Jennifer Ruckdashel, Vernon Oakland.

**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.



 **Noisy Can Offering** for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (Jan.-March) will go to Karen Guyer for extra expenses incurred for medical visits.



**Quilting** will resume on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> @ 9am. All are welcome! Come join the fun!



**Confirmation Class** will resume on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, following school.



**WELCA Circles** will meet on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>: 9am-Sarah Circle; 1pm- Mary Circle; 2pm-Ruth Circle.



Fun for Seniors

**Senior Game Day** is Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm @ West Clermont Lutheran. Please come for fellowship, snacks, cards, games, and FUN! Bring a friend!



**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.



**2024 Offering Envelopes** are available for pick up in the Fellowship area.



**CONGREGATIONAL CALL MEETING.** Please join us on **Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**. There will be **2 important votes** taking place. The first vote will be on the time & compensation to offer Vicar Mike for his Call to serve West Clermont. The second vote is the vote to call Vicar Mike to be our ordained Pastor. Pr. Brackett from the Synod Office will be here to walk us through the process. Those unable to be here physically, can call or FaceTime a congregation member who is present and vote.



**WCLC Annual Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, following worship service. Reports will be available for review by January 7<sup>th</sup>. Snow date for the meeting is Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>.



**ORDINATION & INSTALLATION-** Provided all goes well at the January 7<sup>th</sup> congregational vote, Vicar Micheal Erickson will be ordained & installed as our new PASTOR @ 1pm on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Refreshments to follow service. All are invited to attend and celebrate!