



West Clermont Lutheran Church

PO Box 327
221 Larrabee St.
Clermont, IA 52135
Ph: 563-423-7170
Email: wclc@acegroup.cc
Website: www.westclermontlutheranchurch.com

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

Council President
Randy Wiedenhoff
Email: randyfirechief7@gmail.com
Phone: 563-380-3406

Pastor
Mike Erickson
Email: merickson99@yahoo.com
Phone: 423-5122 (Home) or 563-422-1687 (Cell)

April 2024 Newsletter



From Pastor Mike: April 2024 “He is Risen!”

As we begin April, the tomb has been found empty. Jesus is risen! Hallelujah! This whole month we will be in the season of Easter. The first two weeks we hear the story of Jesus’ appearance to the disciples after His resurrection.

The disciples start this month locked behind closed doors. Peter and another disciple have seen the empty tomb along with the women. Mary Magdalene has spoken with the risen Christ, and she has told the disciples about it. Jesus has risen! You’d think they would be off celebrating. Instead, they hide out.

It makes sense that they were scared. It was only a couple days before that they endured the death of their leader on a cross. They know that they could be next, so they wait behind locked doors.

At this moment in time, fear dominates their lives. It is to His fearful disciples that the risen Christ chooses to appear. Jesus comes back, not concerned for Himself, but for His disciples. He senses their profound fear. So, He speaks His peace to them. Their fear disappears, and they rejoice to see Him.

Many of us have times in our lives where fear dominates, whether it is a medical diagnosis, the death of a loved one, consequences of poor decisions, or the result of something over which we have no control. Jesus speaks to us too when we pray to Him. He offers His peace. When we go to Jesus in prayer, He can take away the fear and help bring us peace in the midst of the turmoil in our lives.

During this Easter season, I pray that you have joy and peace. Amen.



West Clermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes- March 6, 2024

Present: Diane Butikofer, Rodney Wagner, Kyle & Kathy Wander, Kenny Monteith, Brittany Bassett, Tasha Massman, Wendy Steffens, Pastor Mike Erickson

Diane called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Pastor Mike opened with prayer.

Motion made by Rodney to approve the agenda. Kyle second, motion carried.

February minutes read. All church officers are listed on the bank signature card. Motion made by Brittany to approve the minutes. Wendy second, motion carried.

Treasurer report: Rodney made a motion to pay the bills and accept the treasurer report. Kenny second, motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Lenten services are going well. Service here on March 20th, WELCA is planning to serve TJ's pizza. Pastor has been busy with Lenten services and making visits.

Old Business/Committee Reports:

- A. **SOTH Conference Annual Assembly follow up** - Pr. Mike and Kenny Monteith attended. Conference was very successful with attendance. Pastor Brackett presented a video looking for feedback from our congregation to send back to synod. Council will watch the video next meeting to meet the deadline. SOTH Thrift Store is in St. Olaf and is very well received & raising money.
- B. **Offering Envelopes:** Tabling this for next meeting.
- C. **Constitutional Revisions:** Tabling this for next meeting.

New Business:

- A. **Noisy Can Designation for 2nd Quarter (April-June)** Wendy made a motion to have 2nd quarter noisy can go to Jo Kramer, Waucoma for her ongoing health concerns and cancer treatments. Tasha second, motion carried. Will contact this individual to make sure she is accepting this.
- B. **Lenten Offering Designation** (Feb. 28 & March 20) Rodney made motion to have Lenten offerings be sent to West Union Open Hands food pantry. Kyle second, motion carried.
- C. **Pictorial update-** Will review email given from company and will table this for next month. Pastor will put out reminder for members to take pictures during church events.
- D. **175th Parade Entry.** WELCA plans on doing a stand with a wheel of free WCLC stuff to give away, plus information about our church on Saturday. Council could have a parade entry of some kind. Pr. Mike/office is working on the community ecumenical service on that Sunday. Plans to follow.

Announcements & Important Dates

- A. **Newsletter items** are due by Friday, March 22nd.
- B. **Copper Creek Service** is Wed., March 13th @ 10:30am.
- C. **Audit Guidelines-** Booklet were given to committee members.
- D. **Senior Fun Day** is postponed until April.
- E. **Confirmation Date:** April 7, 2024
- F. **Synod and ELCA reports for 2023** have been submitted.
- G. **Lenten Schedule:** Guided to the Cross Lenten Schedule Sheet

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Theme</u> | <u>Church</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Week 3, March 6 | Guided to Peace | Elgin Lutheran, Service at 6:30. Dessert after the service. |
| Week 4, March 13 | Guided to Trust | St Paul's Methodist, Elgin, Service at 7pm. Dessert after. |
| Week 5, March 20 | Guided to Perseverance | West Clermont, Service at 6:30pm. Meal at 5:30pm |
| Maundy Thurs., Mar 28 | | West Clermont, Service at 6:30pm. |
| Good Fri., Mar 29 | Guided to Sacrifice | East Clermont, Service at 6pm |

Closing Prayer/Adjourn

Motion made by Kenny to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Kyle second, motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



WELCA Board Meeting Minutes- Wednesday March 6, 2024

WELCA Board met on March 6, 2024 @ 1:00pm. Those attending were: Linda Hyde, Carla Hanson, Mae Becker, Deb Guyer and Marcia Wiedenhoff.

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

Treasurer's Report: Checking balance: \$2,374.07 Savings balance: \$2,777.34 Quilting fund: \$534.30

Motion to approve: Mae / Carla / Carried. Deb reported that Chaplaincy Fund is no longer and check was returned to us.

Old Business:

- Lent Service Schedule:** Served 26 people for Ash Wednesday. Took in \$161. Was put into General Fund. Suggested to not serve a meal for Ash Wednesday. Voted to Serve TJ's Pizza for the March 20 service. Using a Thrivent card. Each circle is to bring 1 pan of bars or 3 dozen cookies. Marcia will order pizza. And serve water, milk and lemonade. Linda / Carla / Carried.
- Roasters:** Purchased 3 roasters and the remainder of the Unused Thrivent card was used by Mary Circle for Scalloped potatoes and ham.
- Theme Quilt for Shepherd of the Hill 2024 Hog Roast:** Quilt was handed over to the machine quilter. Cost so far is \$131.49.
- Soup Carry-Out:** February 25th. \$5 per pint and \$8 per quart. 58 pints and 19 quarts. Took in \$443.00. Put into savings. Deb / Linda / carried
- Ordination and Installation for Pastor Mike:** \$150 to Glenda Koehn for cakes. Served 86 guests.
- Mitten Tree:** Stephanie Spain delivered items to Postville schools.
- Clermont 175th:** Marcia shared the idea of having a booth in the park and do a spinning wheel to give away prizes such as cookbooks, cups, plates and some smaller items. Good way to deplete our inventory of these items. Linda/ Mae/ Carried

New Business:

- Correspondence:** LSI, Katie's Fund, ELCA World Hunger, Women of the ELCA, Global Health Ministries, Helping Services, Lutheran World Relief.
- Table Center Pieces:** Wiedenhoff and Monteith Families donated center pieces for dining area tables. Winter and Spring. Working on Summer and Fall. A cabinet from upstairs will be put in place in the spare dining area to hold decorations within the church. Marcia will ask someone on maintenance to help install.
- Little Flock Cluster B Spring Gathering:** April 27 - St. John's Luana. Theme is Butterflies with speaker Jim Langhus.
- Northeast Iowa Synodical Women's Gathering:** June 15 - Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waverly. 8:30 - 2:00.
- Corrections and Updates of policies in Directory:** Updates some phone numbers. #4 Take out(\$5 memorial of a church related need shall be given from the circle when a member dies) Linda / Mae / Carried. #12 Remove. Mae / Carla / Carried. Marcia will check with council about #9 and #10.
- LWR Truck:** May 4th
- New Coffee Pot:** Sarah Circle donated a new coffee pot for the Coffee Hour Area.

Sunday coffee Schedule: March - Ruth. April - Sarah May - Mary

Coffee Hour Area (Yearly) : Sarah **Kitchen** (Yearly) : Mary **Fresh Flowers/plants and Seasonal**

Decor (Yearly): Ruth **Altar Duties** (January, February, March, April): Mary

Motion to Adjourn: 2:15pm Linda / Deb / Carried

Closing: The Lord's Prayer **Next Meeting:** April 3, 2024 @ 1:00pm

Submitted: Marcia Wiedenhoff, Board President/Secretary



April, 2024

| DATE | READER | ACOLYTE | COMMUNION | BREAD |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 4/7* | Stephanie Spain | Sutton Schrader | Kayleen Schrader | Stephanie Spain |
| 4/14 | Aaron Steffens | Natalie Bassett | | |
| 4/21 | Layne Kleppe | Keegan Klemp | | |
| 4/28* | Diane Butikofer | Ryan Dean | Jess Dean | Karen Kohls |

April Ushers: Aaron Steffens, Jerry Anderson, and Dean Hyde



Birthdays *of the Month* March

04/03 Jacobsen Alycia
 04/06 Kittelson Steven
 04/14 Schrader Teagan
 04/25 Larson Wendy
 04/27 Helgerson Milo
 04/29 Nims Luann

04/04 Larson Colby
 04/07 Swenson Marsha
 04/16 Davisson Jennifer
 04/26 Dinan Joseph
 04/28 Donnelly Avery
 04/30 Amundson Cecelia

04/05 Schlicht Hadley
 04/08 Amundson Jennifer
 04/23 Muxin Julianna
 04/27 Guyer Arnold
 04/28 Helgerson Evan



Offerings: February 25, 2024 – March 24, 2024

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Loose: \$21.00
 Regular: \$495.00
General Fund Total: \$602.06
 Building / roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 55

Noisy Can: \$67.31
 Flow Thru: \$18.75

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Loose: \$99.00
General Fund Total: \$164.00

Attendance: 41

Lenten: \$65.00

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Loose: \$6.00
 Regular: \$1,540.00
General Fund Total: \$1,611.53
 Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 49

Copies: \$3.75
 Lenten: \$20.00
 Noisy Can: \$41.78

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Initial: \$10.00
 Basement Rental: \$120.00
 Regular: \$1,680.00
Total General Fund: \$1,925.04

Attendance: 48

Lenten: \$25.00
 Loose: \$48.00
 Noisy Can: \$42.04

Building: \$140.00 (Roof-\$90/Regular-\$50)

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Loose: \$21.00

Regular: \$550.00

Total General Fund: \$674.11

Attendance: 44

Lent: \$55.00

Noisy Can: \$48.11

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Loose: \$233.00 (Open Hands Food Pantry)

Total General Fund: \$478.00

Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 46

Lent: \$245.00

Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024

Regular: \$315.00

Total General Fund: \$357.27

Attendance: 60

Noisy Can: \$42.27

April 2024, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

April 2024 – From Sheep to Shepherd: An LSI Early Childhood Services Story

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a mother, recently released from treatment, found herself in her new empty apartment with her son. She felt lost and needed a shepherd to guide her. So, Hali contacted LSI's Early Childhood Services, and Gretchen O'Brien, a Family Support Worker, answered the call. Gretchen began virtual home visits using the Healthy Family America home-visiting model.

For the next three years, Gretchen connected Hali and her son to community resources, served as a support system and a shoulder to cry on, and celebrated Hali's sobriety milestones with her. Even when Hali doubted herself, Gretchen guided and believed in her.

"I just remember sitting in that empty apartment crying, but I had Gretchen on the phone. You guys believed in me when nobody else did," shared Hali.

Today, Hali serves on the Healthy Family America (HFA) National Parent Advisory Committee, the first of its kind. The group is composed of 10-12 parents from around the country who have graduated from their local HFA program, each participant with their own story to share.

Hali needed a shepherd in her time of trouble and self-doubt, and Gretchen answered that call. Now, Hali serves as a shepherd to thousands of parents through the National Parent Advisory Committee. The LSI Early Childhood team couldn't be more proud of Hali and Gretchen.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's 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 – APRIL 2024



Are you a Thrivent member?

Did you know that you can receive up to **2- \$250 action cards** to be used towards our events we host each year? This is a great way to support our projects like Back to School, Christmas for Kids and our Annual Hog Roast. Please reach out to me if you are interested in obtaining a card(s) to support these efforts.

We are starting to think...Back to School. (I know it's early) We filled 335 backpacks for the surrounding area students in 2023. I suspect that we will have an increase this year as well. We are looking for your support as our inventory was depleted due to the steady increases. If your church, organization, 4H group or business would like to host a fundraising event to help out, please reach out to me for more details of items in need. We will be collecting donations from June 1-July 31. This will give you plenty of time to organize and host an event for BACK TO SCHOOL.

The best events are the ones that support our youth, especially their education.

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today! -Malcom X

Clothing Center Updates:

We are currently in the spring/summer season of donations. (No winter items accepted) We appreciate all those who have scheduled their donations. This allows us to keep the store clean, safe and inventory rotated. When you call to schedule a donation, it reserves that day for your items to be accepted.

Thrifting is an increasing popular way of shopping. We hope to be open more Saturdays to support that trend. I will announce our Saturday open dates on Facebook so please follow us for more information.

Thank you for supporting the SOTH Thrift Store where almost everything is only **\$1.00**

Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-noon and 1-4 pm.

Shepherd Conference News:

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family of Pastor Harold McMillian Jr. who passed away on March 2, 2024. Harold has been a staple to the SOTH Conference and the Synod- serving over 50 years in ministry. Pastor Harold served as Pastor to many of the churches in our Conference, lastly serving as Interim Pastor at St. Peter in Garnavillo and Peace in Clayton. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. Thank you, Pastor Harold, for your generous dedication to the Lord, the Congregations and to SOTH.

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!**

Please indicate what church you are from as well to provide better bookkeeping.

IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES:

ConFest-

April 24, 2024 5:30-7:30

St. Paul Lutheran- Postville

RSVP by April 21

Open to all confirmation students and leaders

Little Flock Spring Gathering.

April 27, 2024

Registration: 9-9:30 am

St. John Lutheran- Luana

RSVP by April 17

***Any event may be subject to change**

Shepherd of the Hills:

Heather Hageman

100 W. Hill Street, PO Box 36,

St. Olaf, IA 52072

Telephone: 563-783-2409

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, Jennifer Ruckdashel, Karen Kerner, Terry Cummings.

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

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



 **Noisy Can Offering** for 2nd Quarter (April - June) will go to Jo Kramer from Waucoma, for her ongoing health concerns and cancer treatments. Jo writes a blog about her experiences with her illness.



Senior Game Day is back on April 10th & 24th, from 2-4pm. Come join us for some snacks and fun! All are welcome!



Direct Deposit Offering is available for your weekly/monthly offering. Simply contact the office for account and routing information. It's fast and easy!



Pictorial Time! Our last pictorial was five years ago and a lot has happened since then. As we start preparing for our next pictorial, we are asking you to share any photos of church events with the office. We would like to have a good representation of all the things we do as a congregation from worship to the Fall Dinner, quilting to Luther League.



Calmar Lutheran Church Luther League BINGO! on April 28th @ the church in Calmar. Doors open at 2:30pm. Games start at 3pm. \$2 buy in with each additional card \$5 each. 15 regular BINGO games, 4 special games and 1 blackout. Payout (1 winner per game): \$25 for regular bingo, \$40 for special games and \$100 for blackout winner. Concessions available. Door prizes and 50/50 raffle.



WCLC Camperships are available for those attending a faith-based summer camp in 2024. Stop in the office or email the church for the application. You are encouraged to submit the completed application before the May 1st, Council Meeting. This will allow for timely receipt of campership funds.



The last confirmation class is this Wednesday, April 3rd.



Confirmation is on Sunday, April 7th.



No Sunday School on April 7th, so the youth can attend the confirmation ceremony at service.



Thank you to all who brought Easter Lilies for the cross and altar.



Rogation Sunday is April 21st.



Little Flock Spring Gathering. April 27, 2024. Registration: 9-9:30 am. St. John Lutheran-Luana RSVP by April 17th. Theme is Butterflies with speaker Jim Langhus.