



## West Clermont Lutheran Church

PO Box 327  
221 Larrabee St.  
Clermont, IA 52135  
Ph: 563-423-7170  
Email: [wclc@acegroup.cc](mailto:wclc@acegroup.cc)  
Website: [www.westclermontlutheranchurch.com](http://www.westclermontlutheranchurch.com)

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

### Pastor

*Mike Erickson*

Email: [merickson99@yahoo.com](mailto:merickson99@yahoo.com)

Phone: 423-5122 (Home) or 563-422-1687 (Cell)

### Council President

*Randy Wiedenhoff*

Email: [randyfirechief7@gmail.com](mailto:randyfirechief7@gmail.com)

Phone: 563-380-3406

## April 2025 Newsletter



**From Pastor Mike:** Easter is Coming 2025

As we move into April, we still have two weeks of Lent and then Holy Week before we get to Easter. We have two weeks of Lenten reflection and repentance followed by a week that starts with a celebration and ends with our Lord on the cross. Then we will finally get to the miracle of Easter morning and the empty tomb.

Why can't we just skip ahead to Easter, the Easter baskets, and Easter Brunch and forget the gruesome pain and death of Good Friday? We have to think about Jesus' death before we can celebrate his resurrection. We have to think about the human condition and how we are all trapped by sin. We have to think about the unpleasant sinful nature of humanity to realize what a gift we are given by Jesus. Jesus was sacrificed on a cross to save us from our sinful condition. Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection conquers sin and death and gives us eternal salvation. It is humbling to think that Jesus did this to save us humans when we have done nothing to deserve it.

If God can forgive our sins because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can surely forgive the little things we do to each other. This amazing gift makes us want to thank the Lord our God, forgive our neighbors, help each other out, take care of each other, and show God's love to the world. Amen.

Present: Randy Wiedenhoff, Kathy & Kyle Wander, Lainy Donnelly, Aric Steffens, Diane Butikofer, Kenny Monteith, Stacy Cummings, Jed Dean, Rodney Wagner, and Pastor Mike Erickson.

Randy called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. Pastor Mike opened with prayer.

Motion made by to Rodney to approve the agenda. Kyle second, motion carried. February minutes read. Motion made by Kenny to approve the minutes. Stacy second, motion carried.

**Treasurer report:** All routine receipts for February. Motion made by Jed to approve treasurers report. Kenny second, motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor received thank you from Shepherd of the Hills Christmas Event. They were able to help 476 families. A letter from LSI thanked us for our donation. The boiler has been working well but we do need to replace the feed valve so Pastor Mike will contact the company that was supposed to replace it and hasn't come yet. Should be done with confirmation by the end of the month even though they missed today because of weather.

### **Old Business/Committee Reports:**

#### **A. Roof/Solar Panels**

- a. We are still awaiting bids for roof replacement that would be done before the Solar Panels are placed. Rodney motioned to table roof/solar panels until next meeting in April. Second by Aric, motion carried.

#### **B. SOTH Assembly**

- a. This was attended by Randy and Pastor Mike and was held in Volga. Things are going well except for the furnace at SOTH needs to be replaced. They do have the funds available. Elections were held and Pastor Mike is the synod council rep. They have a new website.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Noisy Can for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

- a. We need to bring some names to the April meeting.

#### **B. Other**

### **Announcements & Important Dates**

- A. **Copper Creek Service** is Wed., March 12<sup>th</sup> @10:30am.
- B. **Lenton Schedule** – Wednesday service @WCLC is next Wed., March 12<sup>th</sup> with meal ahead of service by WELCA
- C. **Senior Fun Day** is cancelled for March.
- D. **ICON** (our on-line record system) was renewed for 2025 year
- E. **Palms** have been ordered for Palm Sunday
- F. **Baptism** for Beckham Helgerson was postponed and will be rescheduled. **Baptism** for Rayden Ealey is scheduled for Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- G. **Luther League** will conclude their clothing drive for SOTH on March 16<sup>th</sup>. The league will deliver all collected items during their meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> to the Thrift Store.
- H. Don't forget to "**Spring Ahead**" and set your clocks 1 hour ahead this Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- I. **Other**

### **Closing Prayer/Adjourn**

Motion made by Rodney to adjourn at 6:27pm. Aric second, motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



## WELCA Board, March 4, 2025

WELCA Board met on March 4, 2025 @ 8:30am. Changed due to storm predicted for Wednesday. Those attending were: June Swenson, Deb Guyer, Mae Becker, and Marcia Wiedenhoff.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Checking balance: \$3,752.78 Savings balance: \$3,227.73 Quilting fund: \$418.05

Motion to approve: Mae / June / Carried

### Old Business

1. **Soup Carryout Fundraiser:** 29 quarts, 43 pints and 10 loaves of bread. Sold all but 1 quart. Deb sold that one a couple days later. Total \$610. Precedes to go toward Roof and Solar.
2. **Lent 2025:** WCLC will host **March 12th**. 5:30 - 6:45. Service at 7:00. Menu : Maidrites, buns and milk (Marcia), Salads (Each circle supply 2), bars (each circle supply 1). Drinks. 2 members from each circle are needed to help serve and clean-up.
3. **Kitchen Cupboard Hinges:** Ralph Hoeck fixed them and removed the broken can opener.

### New Business

1. **Correspondence:** Global Health Ministries.
2. **Kitchen Can-Opener:** Broke. Sarah Circle replaced it with an electric one.
3. **Spring Rummage Sale:** Tabled till next month and set a date.
4. **Joint Circle Bible Study:** Sarah Circle is down to 2 circle members attending the meeting and Bible Study. Suggesting to other circles to have joint Bible study and continue to have separate business meetings. They are willing to switch to afternoon and suggest to hold Bible Study at 1:30. Circles can hold business meetings either before or after the Bible Study. Talk at your next Circle meeting to share.
5. **Quilt sale at Vendor Show:** March 15 at Heritage Farm Park. Should have 18 quilts to sell. Quilters were asked what they wanted the proceeds to go to and the majority want it towards Roof and Solar. Pricing at \$60 each. Don't want to overprice and the remaining will be sent on to LWR. Approximately 20 quilts.

**Sunday coffee Schedule:** March – Ruth. April – Sarah. May – Mary.

**Coffee Hour Area** (Yearly): Mary. **Kitchen** (Yearly): Ruth. **Plants & Seasonal Decor** (Yearly): Sarah

**Altar Duties:** (January, February, March and April) **Ruth**. (May, June, July and August) **Sarah**.

(September, October, November and December): **Mary**.

**Motion to Adjourn:** 8:56am Deb / Mae / Carried

**Closing:** The Lord's Prayer      **Next Meeting:** **April 2, 2025 @ 1:00**

Submitted: *Marcia Wiedenhoff*, Board President/Secretary



## Worship Assistants- April, 2025

DATE	READER	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION	BREAD
4/6*	Taylor Dean	Jared Dean	Jess Dean	Deb Jacobsen
4/13* (Palm Sunday)	Aaron Steffens	Avery Lerch	Marsha Swenson	Zelpha Henderson
4/17* (Maundy Thursday)	Stacy Cummings	Josh Dirksen	Stacy Cummings	Marlene Yauslin
4/20* (Easter)	Mark Nelson	Keegan Klemp	Mark Nelson	Marlene Yauslin
4/27*	Teagan Schrader	Sutton Schrader	Kayleen Schrader	Denise Nelson

**April Ushers: Mark Nelson, Vernon Oakland, Rick Swenson**



04/03 Jacobsen Alycia  
 04/07 Suckow Donna  
 04/14 Schrader Teagan  
 04/25 Larson Wendy  
 04/28 Donnelly Avery

04/04 Larson Colby  
 04/07 Swenson Marsha  
 04/16 Davisson Jennifer  
 04/27 Guyer Arnold  
 04/28 Helgerson Evan

04/06 Kittelson Steven  
 04/08 Amundson Jennifer  
 04/23 Muxin Julianna  
 04/27 Helgerson Milo  
 04/29 Nims Luann



**Offerings: March 2, 2025 – March 23, 2025**

**Sunday, March 2, 2025**

Loose: \$51.00  
 Regular: \$535.00  
**Total General Fund: \$722.60**  
 Roof: \$180.00  
 Memorials IMO Lois Miller: \$1,685.00  
 Solar Memorial IMO Lois Miller: \$20.00

**Attendance: 39**  
 Noisy Can: \$136.60

**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

Loose: \$71.00  
 Regular: \$1,155.00  
**Total General Fund: \$1,391.72**  
 Roof: \$90.00                      Memorial: \$120.00 IMO Lois Miller

**Attendance: 31**  
 Noisy Can: \$165.72

**Lenten Wednesday, March 12, 2025**

Loose: \$71.00  
**Total to Open Hands Food Pantry: \$111.00**  
 Bldg. Fund: \$20.00

**Attendance: 45**  
 Lenten: \$40.00

**Sunday, March 16, 2025**


Loose: \$51.00  
 Regular: \$635.00  
**Total General Fund: \$818.28**


**Attendance: 44**  
 Noisy Can: \$132.28

**Sunday, March 23, 2025**

Copies: \$25.00  
 Loose: \$169.00  
 Regular: \$2,855.00  
**Total General Fund: \$3,216.06**  
 Roof: \$90.00

**Attendance: 83**  
 Lenten: \$20.00  
 Noisy Can: \$147.06

 *May God's blessing be upon **Rayden Thomas Ealey**, son of Shea & Brittany Ealey who was baptized on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Sponsors for Rayden are Tess Becker and Frank Garritano.*

 *May God's blessing be upon **Beckham Rodney Helgerson**, son of John & Danielle Helgerson who will be baptized on March 29, 2025. Sponsors for Beckham are Bob Helgerson and Gabrielle Kriegel.*



**Prayer List**

**Requested:** Karen Kohls, Jeanette (Davisson) Cain, Don Erickson, Jake Noggle, Karen Guyer, Ardell Fortune, Julie Albertson, Larry Kohls, Sarah Updegraff-Murray, Eric Clubb, Bill and Cindy Thias, JoAnn Bishop, Ben Phillips, Meca Loftsgard.

**Assisted Living, Nursing Homes & Shut-Ins:** Betty Erickson, Bud Siebrecht, Karen Follett, Judy Nelson, Madonna Stumme, Doris Guyer, Evelyn Tague.

**In the Military:** Jeff Kleppe, Nathan Guyer, Kennedy White.

## 2025 Lenten & Holy Week Schedule

Date	Meal/Service Times	Church
April 2	No Meal/7pm-dessert following service	Illyria Community Church
April 9	TBA/7pm	East Clermont Lutheran Church
April 17 (Maundy Thursday)	No Meal/7pm	West Clermont Lutheran Church
April 18 (Good Friday)	No Meal/7pm	St. Paul's United Methodist Church
April 20 (Easter Sunrise Service)	No Meal/ 7am	First Baptist- Elgin TBA location

**Palm Sunday and regular Easter Services will be at individual churches.**

**Maundy Thursday Seder Meal** @ Elgin Lutheran Church on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, @ 6pm. *For those who do not have their own service this day, all are welcome to attend our Seder Meal. We would like to encourage you to let us know if you may have people interested, so we can plan accordingly. Note: this is not a full meal (so eat a light meal beforehand). Think of it more as a service and less as a full meal where families gather to retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt through symbolic foods, prayers, songs, and discussions. The last night Jesus spent with his disciples was during the Passover and is*



*LSI serves Iowans of all ages; from families with newborns navigating parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, and children of all ages. One of the most vital populations LSI supports is young parents, especially those navigating the challenges of early motherhood. Cheyenne F., a Family Support Specialist for LSI's Healthy Families America (HOPES) program, shares the impactful work she's doing with young mothers in need of support.*

She shares that she had the privilege of working closely with NF, a young mom who has shown incredible growth and resilience.

The Healthy Families America (HOPES) program is an evidence-based child abuse prevention program that provides support to prenatal families and families with children ages 0-5. LSI's Family Support Specialists work with families like NF's to provide the guidance and resources needed to break cycles of abuse and neglect and build strong, healthy foundations for children and parents alike.

NF's journey began in June 2023 when she reached out for help. At 19 years old and pregnant, NF was living in Muscatine County and knew she needed extra parenting support. Through the HOPES program, Cheyenne began building rapport with NF right away and learned about NF's challenging upbringing, which included bouncing from foster home to foster home starting at age 6.

**"NF had faced so much inconsistency and pain in her early years,"** shared Cheyenne. **"It was clear that she had a lot of unresolved trauma, but it was equally clear that she wanted to make a positive change in her life, especially for her baby."**



Throughout the course of their work together, Cheyenne and NF focused on building trust and creating a safe space for NF to share her experiences and challenges. NF revealed that after High School, she fell into a pattern of poor choices, including run-ins with the law. NF got pregnant, and although she knew the father, he didn't want to be involved in her pregnancy or her life. Despite this, she had two strong support networks: her foster parents and her current roommate.

Cheyenne shares that NF struggled with controlling her behavior, and she feared she might end up back in jail, which unfortunately happened. When she was incarcerated, Cheyenne made sure to stay in contact with her foster parents and provided them with regular updates and support.

When NF was released from jail, she confided in Cheyenne that she was considering running away with her baby, which prompted Cheyenne to share valuable resources with her to support her mental health, housing, and employment.

**"I knew that if NF ran, it could jeopardize the progress we had made. But with the right guidance and resources, NF began to see a different path forward,"** Cheyenne shared.

Cheyenne expressed her excitement about NF's progress stating, **"NF has made such huge strides. She started attending therapy twice a week and has also found a job at a local consignment store. She's enrolled in anger management classes and is committed to creating a better future for herself and her baby."**

Today, NF's baby is thriving, meeting all developmental milestones. NF continues to meet regularly with Cheyenne and enjoys engaging in evidence-based activities that are tailored to her needs as a young mother. **"I'm so thankful for the HOPES program. I don't know where I'd be without the support of Cheyenne,"** NF shared.

It's stories like NF's that remind us why the work we do is so important. With the right support, anything is possible.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*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).*



### **Beulahland Christian Camp 2025 Youth Summer Camp Dates:**

- 3rd-5th Grade Camp: June 29-July 3
- 6th-8th Grade Camp: July 13-17
- 9th-12th Grade Camp: July 20-24
- 4th-7th Grade Camp: July 27-31

Registration for 2025 Summer Youth Camps is open now and closes on June 1, 2025.

Secure your spot early to ensure your camper can join us at Beulahland! We look forward to welcoming you! For more information or to register for camp email:

[www.beulahlandbiblecamp.org](http://www.beulahlandbiblecamp.org).



# Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

## NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2025



Our year is not starting out as great as we had hoped. Our furnace quit working and therefore we had to replace and upgraded to a more efficient unit with central air. It is something that was unforeseen and needed to be taken care of immediately. We remained open with no heat for 11 days. Because Shepherd of the Hills operates from donations, we really could use your support to help with this big expense. All donations sent should be noted on the memo line "Furnace repair". We are very blessed to have communities and churches support Shepherd of the Hills, specially NOW!

### Clothing Center Updates:

*We will be doing a season change over (Winter to Spring) so we will not be taking any winter items past **March 28<sup>th</sup>**. Please be patient as this process takes time. Remember that we would love to take all of your donations but there are some items that is impossible to keep. Really worn clothing, stained, holes, non-working zippers/snaps and rusty utensils will not be kept. Appointments are still required so I can staff accordingly. Thank you for thinking of us when it comes to donations. These items are needed in our area and bringing it here, they generally stay in the area.*

### Shepherd Conference News:

Confest will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Monona on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:45-7:45pm. Please RSVP to Pastor Erika by April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This event is open to all conference churches with confirmation students and chaperones. There will be fun activities, worship and lunch served. All churches are encouraged to attend along with Pastors.

Please remember during this Lenten season to support your church with joining in worship and fellowship. Lenten meals are happening all around us and they do need your support as well. Not to mention the food is great too!

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 30. 2025**

**Ascension Day Service- May 29th, 2025**

**NE Iowa Synod Assembly June 6-7, 2025**

### 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](mailto:shephill@neitel.net)

**Business Hours: Monday-Friday**

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



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



**2025 Summer Camp Program Guides** are now available in the entryway downstairs. **West Clermont Campships are available.** Please contact the church office for the form.



**Open Hands Food Pantry Needs Volunteers** for the following areas; stocking, cleaning, and organizing shelves; assisting on Tuesdays for all or some of the day; pick up food rescue items; hang posters; organize donation drives. Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds on occasion. Contact Open Hands @ 563-422-2150 or @ [www.openhandswu@gmail.com](mailto:www.openhandswu@gmail.com).



**Montauk is hiring for a Museum Guide.** Hiring is open until April 18<sup>th</sup>. This position is seasonal. Shifts are typically 11:45-4:30 and must be able to work a weekend day. \$14.00 hr. For additional information and directions on how to apply, please see the bulletin in the downstairs entry. Further questions can be directed to Hannah @ 563-423-7173.



**28<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of the Elgin Public Library Book Sale.** Books, puzzles, DVDs, and more! DOOR PRIZES! Dates: Thurs., April 10<sup>th</sup>: 1-5:30pm. Fri., April 11<sup>th</sup>: 10-5:30pm. Sat., April 12<sup>th</sup>: 9am-Noon. **ON-LINE AUCTION** on Facebook (*elginpubliclibraryfriend*) begins on Mon., March 24<sup>th</sup> and ends on Sat., April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 11am.



**Little Flock Women's Spring Gathering @ St. John's Arlington** is on Saturday, April 26 beginning @ 9am. The theme is "Answering God's Calling". In Kind offering for St. John Little Food Pantry (nonperishable products). Offering will go to Fayette County Food Shelf. \$7 per person. Lunch will be served.