



West Clermont Lutheran Church

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December 2022 Newsletter

From Vicar Mike: Christmas Is Here Again

As I am finishing up my first month of internship, I am finalizing my goals. The rest of my internship will be accomplishing those goals. As the next year progresses, the seminary and churchwide encourage us to try new things as part of my internship. Some will work well, and some might not work as well. We will also be bringing back parts of the service that have been missed since the start of the pandemic. Please have an open mind as we work through my internship. We will learn and grow together.

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 A in the three-year rotation. This next year will be the year of Matthew. There will be a few times we will get to hear John again, but the Gospel of Luke has been put away for a few years and Mark must wait another year. The Gospel of Matthew is sometimes called the Teacher's Gospel because it focuses heavily on the teaching ministry of Jesus. Matthew also likes numbers; he likes to use triplets and doublets and to use numbers that have special meanings. We will explore that during the next year.

With Matthew, 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 you have a blessed Christmas and Advent Season!

Peace,
Vicar Mike



West Clermont Lutheran Church Council Minutes – November 2, 2022

Present: Brant Schrader, Wendy Steffens, Amy Cummings, Isaiah Ruckdashel, Gene Ruckdashel, Kathy Wander, Jesse Bassett, Tasha Amundson, Nicole Jacobsen, and Vicar Mike Erickson

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

Motion was made by Isaiah to approve the October minutes. Wendy second, motion carried.

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

Kathy sent out the monthly financial statement for review prior to the meeting. Motion made by Amy to approve the Treasurer's Report. Isaiah second, motion carried.

Pastor Report: Pastor is now getting closer to start his internship and that will not be covered by his GI bill. He will keep us posted on his expenses.

Paint project fundraising is underway. The ham ball dinner was a huge success! We raised \$3,900+ in food and we completely sold out of food and \$1,695.00 for the silent auction baskets.

Shechem Meeting was held on October 15th in Eldorado, at 1:30 p.m. Mike was in attendance and they reviewed financials, synod assembly and the next pancake supper. They also discussed possibly doing a multi-generational mission trip. Next meeting is February 19th at Trinity Lutheran in Hawkeye.

Council discussed the giving tree and Amy made a motion continue doing 2 families through Parent Share and Support and 1 family through the NFV School System. Jesse second, motion carried.

Council will be seeking bids for insulation in the attic, which was recommended by Riehle Painting, who will be painting the sanctuary.

Council is still seeking bids for a new window to be placed in the old office on the East side of the church.

Children's Christmas Program will be held on December 18th at 9:30 service.

Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7 p.m. and Christmas Day will be held at 9:30 a.m.

Newsletter items are due to the office by November 20, 2022.

Next council meeting will be held **December 7th at 5:30 p.m.**

Motion made by Amy to adjourn at 6:12 pm. Nicole second, motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



WELCA Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 2, 2022

WELCA Board met on November 2, 2022 @ 1:07 pm. Those attending were; Mae Becker, Carla Hanson, Linda Hyde, Deb Guyer and Marcia Wiedenhoff.

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

Treasurer's Report: Reported by Deb Guyer Checking balance: \$2,302.13 Savings balance: \$2768.10 Quilting fund: \$329.18 Motion to approve: Linda /Carla /Carried.

Bills: \$28.51 for Coffee area to Linda Hyde. Approve: Mae/Carla/Carried. \$65.94 for Trunk or Treat to Marcia Wiedenhoff. Approve: Linda/Mae/Carried

Old Business:

1. **Coffee Hour Area:** Ruth circle will keep it organized to end of the year. Looks great!
2. **Ham Ball Dinner:** Held at Opera House. Planned for 200. Sold out. Raised \$3962.30. Not sure if that included basket auction.
3. **Trunk or Treat:** Marcia put up a display. Gave out applesauce packets. \$65.94
4. **LWR Truck:** November 5. Linda and Dean Hyde will deliver to the truck in Decorah.
5. **Thank Offering:** Marcia typed a mailing to be sent to all women of the church. An offering envelope was enclosed for members to put into a special basket during church service on November 20.

New Business:

1. **Correspondence:** Global Health Ministries
2. **Giving Tree:** Tree will be put up soon. WELCA will cover the cost of the unclaimed tags.
Deb/Linda/Carried
3. **Mitten Tree:** Sarah Circle will put up at their November meeting.
4. **Annual Disbursements:** Same as 2021. Total \$500. (EWALU \$50, LSI \$50, Helping Hands \$50, Chaplaincy Fund \$50, ELCA Good Gifts \$100, Fayette County Food Shelf \$100, Global Ministries \$50, Katie’s Fund \$50). Mae/Carla/Carried
5. **2023 WELCA Officers:** Marcia Wiedenhoff and Deb Guyer offered to continue with their duties. President/Secretary: Marcia Wiedenhoff. Treasurer: Deb Guyer. Linda/Carla/Carried
6. **Host Spring Gathering:** West Clermont will host Cluster I Spring Gathering 2023 on the 1st Saturday after Easter. Will plan as the date gets closer.
7. **Shechem Cluster I Board:** West Clermont is to fill 1 seat on the Cluster I Board for a 3 year term. Circle Presidents will bring this to their circle meeting in November.

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

Motion to Adjourn: 1:31Mae / Linda / Carried

Closing: The Lord’s Prayer

Next Meeting: **December 7, 2022 @ 1:00**

Submitted: *Marcia Wiedenhoff*, Board President/Secretary

WELCA Fun Fact

We began tracking our LWR quilts and kits in January of 2017. Here are the places they have been shipped to up to this point.

Where Did Our Quilts and Kits Go?

Item	Date Shipped	Notes
Baby Care Kit	2/22/2017	Georgia
Baby Care Kit	5/24/2017	Guatemala

Baby Care Kit	8/15/2019	Angola
Baby Care Kit	9/25/2019	Burkina Faso
Baby Care Kit	1/28/2020	Jordan
Baby Care Kit	7/7/2020	Ecuador
Baby Care Kit	12/2/2020	Honduras
Quilts	9/21/2017	Niger
Quilts	3/21/2018	Angola
Quilts	1/17/2019	Bosnia
Quilts	9/17/2019	Nicaragua
Quilts	9/25/2019	Burkina Faso
Quilts	1/31/2020	India
Quilts	3/3/2022	Tanzania
Personal Care Kit	8/31/2017	Ukraine
New School Kit	9/21/2017	Niger
New School Kit	8/20/2020	Mali



December, 2022

DATE	READERS	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION
12/4*	Sunday School Youth	Taylor Dean	Rick or Marsha Swenson
12/11	Amy Cummings	Natalie Bassett	
12/18	Sunday School Youth	Teagan Schrader	
12/24*	Rodney Wagner	Mark Erickson	Deb Jacobsen
12/25*	Denise Nelson	Keegan Klemp	Mark or Denise Nelson

December Ushers: Al Amundson, Rick Swenson, Mike Helgerson



Birthdays This Month

December

12/03 Becker Mae
12/12 Billmeyer Nalla
12/18 Lerch Avery
12/22 Siebrecht Jed

12/05 Kress Isaac
12/14 Dean Jed
12/22 Henderson Bert
12/25 Amundson Mary

12/09 Kohls Shirley
12/16 Stumme Madonna
12/22 Shipton Marilyn
12/29 Dean Jessica



Offerings: October 30, 2022 – November 27, 2022

Sunday, October 30, 2022

Loose: \$36.00
Copies: \$32.00
Painting (came thru reg offering bag): \$400.00

Silent auction / painting: \$975.00

General fund deposit #1: \$3,182.58

Meal proceeds (+ Kerndt Bros): \$3,962.30

Building fund / roof: \$180.00

Attendance: 52

Regular: \$1,715.00

Noisy Can: \$24.58

Sunday, November 6, 2022

Copies: \$4.00

Loose: \$62.00

Painting: \$714.00 (silent auction)

Noisy Can: \$66.50

Total General Fund: \$2356.50

Building Roof Fund: \$90.00

Attendance: 71

Basement Rental: \$40.00

Regular: \$1,270.00

Painting: \$200.00 (offerings)

Sunday, November 13, 2022

Copies: \$13.75

Loose: \$21.00

Noisy Can: \$57.87

Painting: \$2,091.00 (brunch \$359.00; silent auction \$132.00; members \$1,600.00)

Total General Fund: \$2913.62

Attendance: 54

Basement Rental: \$115.00

Regular: \$615.00

Sunday, November 20, 2022

Basement Rental: \$50.00

Regular: \$775.00

Paint Project: \$2,100.00

Total General Fund: \$3,030.93

Building/ Roof: \$180.00

Attendance: 60

Thanksgiving: \$30.00

Noisy Can: \$68.93

Loose: \$7.00



Prayer List

Requested: Jeanette (Davisson) Cain, Bob Kress, Don Erickson, Ken Erickson, Jake Noggle, David Wiczorek, Karen Guyer, Karen Kohls, Lynzee Henrikson-Makowski, Ardell Fortune, Inez Oakland, Jerry Erickson, Julie Albertson.

Assisted Living, Nursing Homes & Shut-Ins: Millard Nelson, Betty Erickson, Gail Herman, John Yauslin, Marilyn Knutsen, Marilyn Shipton, Bud Siebrecht, Karen Follett, Rodney Guyer.

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

December 2022, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Merry Christmas from LSI!

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” — John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Because of your generosity LSI has continued to offer hope and healing to lowans of all ages. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI we see veterans getting help, children overcoming fear, moms and dads parenting with renewed joy and confidence, new neighbors from foreign lands becoming established and active in their communities, the pride of independence for those experiencing challenges in everyday life. 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 teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family.

The spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, allows us to stand together and celebrate this Christmas season.

LSI's annual matching gift campaign gives opportunities to double new and increased gifts 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 Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit LSIowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

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 www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Thank you!

As 2022 comes to an end, we reflect back on all those whose lives have been impacted by your gifts.

From Iowa's newest citizens, those you've helped to feel at home in a new country: "Thank you"; from the young first-time mom who has learned how to care for her newborn: "Thank you"; from the teenager who needed some redirection and support: "Thank you".

From the veterans needing help readjusting from trauma they endured: "Thank you"; from the person who was able to receive the kind of mental health therapy they needed: "Thank you".

From the person with disabilities who is able to live as independently as possible with our help: "Thank you"; from the parents who are learning new processes to provide healthy, safe environments for their children: "Thank you"; from the foster parents who are providing care when needed, "Thank you".


From those kids in residential whose lives have come to a turning point with new skills to use going forward: "Thank you!"

And from all of us at LSI that you have encouraged and supported: "Thank you!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mike Erickson has **office hours** on Tuesdays and Thursdays from **9:30am-noon**. To schedule an appointment you may contact the office. Drop ins welcome. You may also contact Mike @ 423-5122 (home) or 563-422-1687 (cell) at any time.

 **Noisy Can Offering** for 4th Quarter (Oct.-Dec.) will go to the Karen Kohl's family for expenses incurred while undergoing treatment for some health issues.



Men's Group will meet Saturday, December 10th @ 8:30am at the church.



Quilters meet on Tuesdays @ 9am.



Operation Christmas Child 2022. Our youth filled **104 shoeboxes** on Wednesday, November 16th. Thank you to all who donated and helped with this service project!




Sunday Brunch for December is *Sunday, December 4th*, following worship. Parish Ed is hosting the brunch and funds go toward the paint project. Serving: Waffles with all kinds of toppings (fruit, whipped cream, syrups....) and link sausage. Freewill Donation.



The Cresco Theatre & Opera House present **The Looney Lutherans Hold the Lutefisk: *It's beginning to smell a lot like Christmas!*** on Sunday, December 4th @ 2pm. Tickets are \$25 each and will be available in early October. This would be a fun group activity!



Christmas Giving Tree is up! We have 2 families; a total of 5 children. Please wrap your gifts with the ornament tag on the present and return them to church by Sun., December 11th.

 **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.



Children's Christmas Program is Sun., Dec. 18th @ 9:30am.



Ecumenical Vespers Service is Sun., Dec. 4th beginning at 4:30pm at the Union Sunday School. A Clermont tradition for over 100 years. All are welcome!



CCC Santa Store is Saturday, December 3rd from 9am-11am @ the Opera House. Santa will be there from 10am-11am.



Nominations are now open for council positions and various church committees for 2023. 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.



Christmas Eve Service will begin @ 7pm. **Christmas Day Service** will begin @ 9:30am. Both services will have Holy Communion.



The Messiah. The 81st performance of Handel's Messiah will take place on Sunday, December 11th @ 7pm at the United Methodist Church in West Union.

A
Holy
and Blessed
Christmas

