



West Clermont Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: Monday thru Friday
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Pastor
Mike Erickson
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December 2024 Newsletter



From Pastor Mike: Christmas Is Here!



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 C in the three-year rotation. This next year will be the year of Luke. There will be a few times we will get to hear John again, but the Gospel of Mark has been put away for a few years and Matthew must wait another year. The Gospel of Luke was written later than Mark and used Mark as a reference as well as some other references. The Gospel of Luke is the longest gospel as well as the most well written in the original Greek. Luke was writing to someone named Theophilus. In reality the Gospel was written to a much larger audience, however Theophilus might be the patron who financed the writing, publishing, and distribution, which would have been significantly more expensive and more difficult to do in those days.

Luke provides some stories and details that are not present in any of the other Gospels. Best of all, Luke provides the story of Jesus' birth with which we are most familiar. With Luke, 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, may you have a blessed Christmas and Advent Season!

Peace,

Pastor Mike



West Clermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting –November 6, 2024

Present: Randy Wiedenhoff, Tasha Massman, Wendy Steffens, Diane Butikofer, Kathy Wander, Kenny Monteith, Brittany Bassett, Pastor Mike Erickson & Teagan Schrader.

Randy called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Pastor Mike opened with prayer.

Motion made by to Tasha approve the agenda. Kenny second, motion carried.

Oct minutes read. Motion made Diane to approve the minutes. Brittany second, motion carried.

Treasurer report: All routine receipts for October. Hamball fundraiser \$4521 with silent auction \$820. Motion made Kenny to keep fundraiser profits in Property maintenance fund. Wendy second, motion carried.

Brittany made a motion to accept the treasurer report. Diane second, motion carried.

Guest: Deb presented mock up design on church directory layout. Kenny made a motion for the layout option 2 to submit for the pictorial book.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike will travel for boundaries training 11/7/24. Announcements from the fall conference: Any Lay Male looking to attend in Phoenix in July. Many other churches are running into insurance coverage issues with loosing coverage. Attended Waverly event for new ordained members. Confirmation update will have 2 more sessions and break until January.

Broiler issues: Some issues off and on this month. Pastor Mike working with NEIA mechanical. Relief valves were replaced, looking at cost estimate for corrosion inhibitor.

Old Business/Committee Reports:

A. Bench for Khaki Nelson: Bench is completed and will be assembled.

B. Stewardship Drive- Well received to congregation

C. Fall Ham Ball Dinner: Info above on great turnout and fundraiser.

D. Giving Tree. We have 2 families; 5 kids. Tree will be up on Nov. 17th. Gifts due back by Dec.15th.

New Business

- A. **Roof leaking:** Randy has addressed the small leak into in back addition. Eric Guyer came to look at the roof spot and will be addressed & fixed this Spring.
- B. **Thanksgiving Eve Service.** At St. Paul Methodist Church in Elgin @ 7pm
- C. **Christmas Schedule**
 - a. **Decorating.** Should be decorated by December 1st.
 - b. **Christmas Caroling**
 - c. **Children's Program.** Scheduled for December 22nd.
 - d. **Christmas Eve/Day.** Tuesday, Dec. 24th at 7 pm. **No service held Wed. Christmas Day.**
- D. **SOTH Christmas for Kids.** Looking for monetary donations and workers for the event. Letter will be posted on bulletin board. Info will be posted in the bulletin for our congregation to purchase toys, items.
- E. **Salary/Raises for Employees for 2025**-tabled for work session next month when we discuss the budget for 2025.
- F. **Offering:** Encouraging congregation members to give electronically that the plate is empty. Will be addressed at annual meeting.

Announcements & Important Dates

- A. **Newsletter items** are due by Friday, November 22nd.
- B. **Copper Creek Service** is Wed., November 13th @ 10:30am.
- C. **Pr. Liz Bell** from the Synod will be at the **February 2025 Council Meeting.**

- D. **Congratulations** to Ila Darlene Turner who was baptized on October 20th.
- E. **Welcome new members** Kevin and Caroline Bemiss who transferred from Bethel Presbyterian.
- F. **Wagner 45th Anniversary Fellowship** on Sunday, November 10th following church until noon.
- G. **Senior Fun Day** is November 13th from 2-4pm.
- H. **Operation Christmas Child** is Wednesday, November 20th. Currently collecting items for the boxes.
- I. **WELCA Thankoffering Sunday** is November 24th.
- J. **Office Closed: November 28th and 29th for Thanksgiving.**

Closing Prayer/Adjourn

Motion made Brittany by to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. second, Kyle motion carried. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.



WELCA Board Minutes, November 6, 2024

WELCA Board met on October 2, 2024 @ 1:00 pm. Those attending were: Linda Hyde, Carla Hanson, Deb Guyer, Mae Becker and Marcia Wiedenhoff.

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

Treasurer’s Report: Checking balance: \$4,447.34 Savings balance: \$3,225.78 Quilting fund: \$418.05
Motion to approve: Linda/Carla/Carried

Old Business

1. **Meeting at EWALU:** 10 members enjoyed a wagon ride tour of the site, Bible Study and a meal.
2. **GHM “2024 Welcome Kit” Challenge:** Discussion. The cost of items is more than what circles can afford within their accounts. Dismissed.
3. **Shepherd of the Hill Hog Roast:** October 6th. 4:00 - 7:00 in St. Olaf. Quilts = \$1,575. Silent Auction Items = \$1,035. Meal \$10,000 plus.
4. **LWR Truck:** November 2. Marcia delivered.
5. **Trunk or Treat:** Held at WCLC. 190 - 200 kids came through. 11 tables set up. \$73.77
6. **Thank Offering:** November 24
7. **Ham Ball Dinner:** Held October 24. (Raised)Food = \$4,211 Auction = \$820. Expenses = \$506.29
8. **Lutheran Disaster Relief:** Donated \$100 to this cause to help flood victims of Storm Helena. Gave through Thrivent and they matched \$1 to every \$2.

New Business:

1. **Correspondence:**
2. **Mitten Tree:** Sarah Circle
3. **Family gift tag tree:** 2 families. (1 family has 1 child and 1 family has 4 children). Deb made the motion to take care of the unfilled tags. Linda / Carried.
4. **2024 Disbursements:** Fayette County Food Shelf-\$300 ELCA Good Gifts-\$300 EWALU-\$125 LSI-\$125 Helping Hands-\$125 Global Ministries-\$125 Katie’s Fund-\$125 Mae/Carla/Carried

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

Coffee Hour Area (Yearly): Sarah. **Kitchen** (Yearly): Mary. **Fresh Flowers/plants & Seasonal Decor** (Yearly): Ruth.

Altar Duties: (September, October, November and December): Sarah

Motion to Adjourn: 1:40pm Deb/Mae/Carried

Closing: The Lord’s Prayer **Next Meeting:** December 4, 2024 @ 1:00pm

Submitted: *Marcia Wiedenhoff*, Board President/Secretary



December, 2024

DATE	READER	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION	BREAD
12/1*	Stephanie Spain	Celia Klemp	Jess Dean	Stephanie Spain
12/8	Avery Donnelly	Ryan Dean		
12/15	Aaron Steffens	Lainee Steffens		
12/22	Children's Christmas Program	Natalie Bassett		
12/24*	Deb Guyer	Klay Monteith	Mark Nelson	Zelpha Henderson
12/29	Rodney Wagner	Brailyn Dirksen		

December Ushers: Vince Spain, Mark Nelson, Greg Larson



12/02 Suckow Kenneth
 12/07 Johannngmeier Hadley
 12/14 Dean Jed
 12/20 Ealey Ryker
 12/25 Amundson Mary

12/03 Becker Mae
 12/09 Kohls Shirley
 12/16 Stumme Madonna
 12/22 Henderson Bert
 12/29 Dean Jessica

12/05 Kress Isaac
 12/12 Billmeyer Nalla
 12/18 Lerch Avery
 12/22 Siebrecht Jed



Offerings: November 3, 2024 thru November 17, 2024

Sunday, November 3, 2024

Loose: \$555.00
 Ham Ball Baskets: \$304.00
 Noisy Can: \$37.57
Total General Fund: \$2,413.32
 Bldg/Roof: \$180.00

Attendance: 81

Copies: \$ 3.75
 Ham Ball Food: \$122.00
 Regular: \$1,355.00

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Loose: \$178.00
 Regular: \$1,025.00
Total General Fund: \$1,304.21
 Bldg. Fund/Roof: \$90.00
 Memorial Fund: \$45.00 IMO Gail Herman.

Attendance: 92

Noisy Can: \$101.21

IMO stands for "In Memory Of"

Sunday, November 17, 2024

Loose: \$53.00
 Regular: \$3,105.00
Total General Fund: \$3,778.36
 Bldg: \$140.00 (Roof-\$90/Reg.-\$50)

Attendance: 65

Basement Rental: \$70.00
 Noisy Can: \$550.36





A note from Renee Hardman, President and CEO of Lutheran Services in Iowa:

Dear friends,

I hope this finds you safe and warm. As I am closing in on my first year as President and CEO at LSI, I am filled with gratitude for our generous donors, dedicated staff members, and kind supporters. Thanks to caring people like you, LSI had another incredible year serving our neighbors. Your donations ensured young parents had access to resources and support. Your in-kind items provided comforting beds for immigrants and refugees to rest upon. Your prayers lifted the spirits of our LSI team members and those we serve. As we enjoy this holiday season, I want to thank you for supporting LSI.

If you would like to serve more neighbors in need, please give at LSIowa.org/donate.

Eternally Grateful,
Renee

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 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 and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.



May God's blessing be upon **Hudson Lee Connor**, son of MacKenzie & Tyler Connor who was baptized 11/10/24. Sponsors for Hudson are Chloe Yauslin and Jacob Kelly.

 **Christmas in Clermont** 

Victorian Christmas at Montauk is Sat., Dec. 7th from 11am-3pm. Come visit Santa & see the decorated house. Craft a Christmas ornament and enjoy some Christmas goodies.

Annual Vespers Service is Sun., Dec. 8th @ 4:30pm at the Union Sunday School.



Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2024



Christmas is right around the corner. I am busy getting things organized and families ready to shop at our Christmas for Kids event. Last year we served 514 children so I expect this year will be just as busy. We are asking for your support with new/unwrapped gifts that will be distributed to families in need. One of the most needed age groups is the teenagers. Yes, they are hard to buy for but they too need our support. Suggested items are fishing poles, gaming items, cologne, ear buds, headphones, sports items, hair products, hair straighteners/curling irons, hair dryers, nail polish, craft projects.

We will set up the auditorium on December 12-13. This is when we are open to the public to drop off their donations. The event will be December 18-19. All families will be by our referral process and will shop by appointment. If you are wanting to help and donate your time, please let me know. It is amazing how it all comes together. The generosity of our community is very overwhelming.

Clothing Center Updates:

We are getting some wonderful donations. Some of the items we are still in need of are: pots and pans, bath towels, wash cloths, baking dishes/pans, small kitchen gadgets, bedding(all sizes) sheets (all sizes/flat/fitted). Girls clothing from NB-size 18 youth. (Pants/shirt), Men's jeans (all sizes). We appreciate a scheduled appointment to donate as this allows us to plan our day/ schedule volunteers/schedule more donations. We do not require a set "time" just a day that the donation will be brought. Thank you for your continued support!

Shepherd Conference News:

If you are wanting to serve on the SOTH board, we will have openings for secretary (2 yr term) property (2 yr term) and the Synod Representative (3 yr term). If you have an interest in joining the board, please let me know by January 3rd, 2025.

Conference Assembly will be February 16 @ 2:00 pm with a snow date of February 23rd 2025. This year St. Paul Volga, Iowa will be hosting the conference.

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:

**Christmas for Kids
December 18th -19th**

**Conference Assembly
February 16th, 2025 @ 2:00 pm
St. Paul, Volga**

*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, Jake Noggle, Karen Guyer, Karen Kohls, Ardell Fortune, Julie Albertson, Danice Cummings, Larry Kohls, Terry Cummings, Sarah Updegraff-Murray, Eric Clubb, Bill and Cindy Thias.


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

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



 **Noisy Can Offering** for 4th Quarter will go to Cindy Thias who is battling cancer.

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


 **Country in the Hills, Christmas at the Barn.** Come rummage and gift shop @ the Heritage Farm Park in Clermont on Thurs., Dec. 5th from 4-6pm; Fri., Dec. 6th from 9am-5pm; & Sat., Dec. 7th from 9am-3pm. A **Santa Store** will be set up for the kids to shop for family. Elf helpers will be there to wrap your gift for free. Mom & Dad, Grandma & Grandpa, can join the fun rummaging through the many items for sale in the barn. Both new and used items.





Fun for Seniors Senior Game Day is on Dec. 11th, from 2-4pm. Come join us for some snacks and fun! All are welcome!




Youth Ministry Luther League will meet on Wed., Dec. 4th @ 6:30pm to make tie-blankets. Chinese is the meal.


 **SOTH Toy Drive Drop Off** is Dec. 12th & 13th from 9am-4pm @ St. Olaf Auditorium. Currently collecting new toys, gifts, or gift cards thru Dec. 11th. Monetary donations may be made & SOTH staff will purchase gifts. If your family would like to receive gifts, a referral is needed. Call the SOTH office @ 563-783-2409.


 **Decorating the Church.** Pr. Mike needs your help decorating the church for Christmas on Sat., Nov. 30th @ 10:30am. Helpers will be putting up and decorating our tree and the cross.


 **Community Choir** is being formed for the **Annual Vesper Service** on Sun., Dec. 8th @ 4:30pm at the Union Sunday School.

They will be singing a couple of carols. If interested please contact June Swenson @ 563-419-7898.

 **SOTH Christmas for Kids** is Dec. 18th & 19th @ St. Olaf Auditorium. If your family would like to receive gifts, a referral is needed. For questions, call the SOTH office @ 563-783-2409. They are in need of volunteers for both events. Call same number to help.

 **Handel's Messiah.** If you would like to participate in the 83rd performance of Handel's Messiah, the full practice schedule is on the bulletin board downstairs. Call Mallory Hanson for questions @ 563-379-2193. Performance on Dec. 15th.

 **Christmas Giving Tree** is up. We are sponsoring 2 families! 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 15th.

 **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.

 **NO QUILTING.** Quilters will resume on Tuesday, January 7th. Happy Holidays!



Youth Practice & Pizza for Christmas Program is Wednesday, December 18th.



Children's Christmas Program is Sunday, December 22nd.



Christmas Candlelight Service is Tuesday, December 24th @ 7pm. NO Christmas Day Service.



Christmas Day Community Meal @ St. John Lutheran in Luana is Dec., 25th from 11am-1pm. Serving: ham, potatoes, stuffing, corn, roll, and dessert. Freewill Offering. RSVP if possible @ hcrogan74gmail.com or call 563-880-1017. Can also call Pr. Jeremy Wolfe @ 563-258-2936 or email he @ pastorjeremywolfe@gmail.com.



Operation Christmas Child Youth Crew WOW!!! The youth of our congregation packed **150 boxes** for Operation Christmas Child. Let's not forget the adults who put a lot of work behind the scenes and everyone who donated items! What an awesome way to start the holiday season!

