



## West Clermont Lutheran Church

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

**Council President**  
*Randy Wiedenhoff*  
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**Vicar**  
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## February 2024 Newsletter



### From Vicar Mike: Ash Wednesday and Lent

I know that it probably does not feel like it is time yet, but Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Easter are almost upon us. This year we are participating in the Ecumenical Lenten Services with other churches in the area. We will have our own Ash Wednesday on February 14 at 6:30pm with a meal at 5:30pm. We will be hosting two of the Lenten Wednesday night services, one on February 28 and one on March 20. Those services will also be at 6:30 pm with meals at 5:30 pm. The full schedule is available in the newsletter, and we will have reminders in the bulletins as to where each service will be for the following weeks.

Some of you may know all of the history behind Ash Wednesday and Lent and others may not know much at all. I find that each time I research topics like this I always find out something new.

Ash Wednesday and Lent do not occur anywhere in the Bible. The traditions of Ash Wednesday and Lent do not appear in church writings until after the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. This council is where we get the Nicene Creed and it promulgated other church doctrine of the time.

The ashes for Ash Wednesday come from the palms from previous Palm Sundays. The imposition of ashes is a reminder of Genesis 2:7, “then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature,” and Genesis 3:19, “for you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday and goes for forty days (not counting Sundays). It is a time of reflection and repentance. The forty days are a symbol of Jesus' time in the wilderness when he fasted and was tempted by the devil. The tradition of giving up something for Lent is said to bring you closer to the suffering of Jesus during his time in the wilderness.

Lent is a somber time to consider our sinful selves and to repent. It is a time to fully realize that we cannot make it to heaven on our own. It is a time to look with anticipation on the joys of Easter Morning. May God's peace be with you as we prepare to start this journey through Lent.

Peace,

*Mike*



### **Congregational Compensation and Call Vote, Sunday, January 7, 2024**

Council President, Jed Dean, opened the meeting and introduced Pr. Brackett from the Synod office. Pr. Brackett led us in opening prayer.

#### **Compensation Vote (majority vote)**

40% or 50% compensation packages were discussed. Currently working at 50%. At 40% there would be less time for visitations to homebound and assisted living members. A vote by ballot was taken. 52 to 1 in favor of offering Vicar Mike Erickson a 50% call compensation package.

#### **Call Vote (2/3 majority vote)**

Pr. Brackett read the Letter of Call. Jed asked if there were any questions. There were none. Motion made by Jesse Bassett to vote. This was seconded by Aaron Steffen. A ballot vote was taken. While the count took place, Pr. Brackett shared information on the new Lay Ministry Classes being offered. The final tally was unanimous to call Vicar Mike as our Pastor.

Pr. Brackett closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by *Deb Jacobsen*, WCLC Secretary

Vicar Mike's **ORDINATION & INSTALLATION** is Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, @ 1pm.

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### **West Clermont Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes- January 21, 2024**

**Present:** 38

Jed Dean called the meeting to order at 10:27am. Pastor Mike opened with prayer.

Motion made by Jesse Bassett to adopt agenda. Amy Cummings second, motion carried.

Correction to Annual meeting report. Name correction to Kathy Wander, Treasurer instead of Kay.

Motion made by Kayleen Schrader to approve the 2022 annual meeting minutes. Wendy Steffens (second). Motion carried.

**Treasurer Report-** Kathy Wagner, Motion to approve- Rodney Wagner, Laverne Swenson (second). Motion carried.

**Audit Committee Report-** Denise Nelson, Amy Cummings, Marcia Wiedenhoff stated that books were in good order, everything looked good. Looking for better guidelines for the committee next year.

## **Election of Council and Committee Members for 2024:**

**Church council:** Rodney Wagner, Kenny Monteith, Brittany Bassett.

**Youth council member:** Teagan Schrader

**Nominating committee:** Tasha Massman, Wendy Steffens, Isaiah Ruckdashel

**Parish Education:** Brandy Monteith, Wendy Steffans

**Evangelism, Fellowship, and Vision-** combined this committee with the worship and arts.

**Property Management:** Jesse Bassett and Aric Steffans

**Auditing Committee:** Marcia Wiedenhoff & Denise Nelson

**Worship & Arts:** Brittany Bassett

**Memorial & Scholarship:** Aaron Steffans & Wendy Larson

Greg Larson made motion to call for unanimous ballot. Randy Wiedenhoff second the motion. Motion passed.

## **Unfinished Business:**

1. **Reduction of Council Members:** Marcia Wiedenhoff made the motion to keep the council members at 9 members, Jesse Bassett second, motion carried.
2. **Solar Panels:** Discussion was had on this large capital project on two quotes from Ken's Electric and Walvatne Electric. This past year we have had a lot of projects with large expenses. Will need to work towards funding. Inside the building fund will have solar panel fund for families that would like to have memorial donations. Jesse Bassett made a motion to approve solar panel within the next 5 years, and Kathy creating treasurer report to create a solar panel account. Ralph Hoeck second, motion carried.

## **Topics of Consideration:**

1. Proposed budget for 2024 listing both 40% & 50%.
  - a. Pastor Micheal Erickson read his acceptance letter with 50% time, Starting Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 as our Pastor at West Clermont Lutheran Church.
  - b. Kathy Wander made suggestion that members of the church can setup an auto direct deposit for offerings. Routing and account information will be available in the church office.
  - c. Kay Schrader made a motion to approve the proposed budget of 50%. Jesse Bassett second, motion carried.

Kathy Wander made a motion to adjourn the annual report. Randy Wiedenhoff, Second. Motion carried.

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer @ 11:15am.

Submitted by *Tasha Massman*, Council Secretary

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## **West Clermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes- January 21, 2024**

Jed called meeting to order 11:15am after the annual meeting.

Council meetings will be held the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

**Elected:** Randy Wiedenhoff- Church President. Diane Butikofer- Vice President.  
Tasha Massman- Secretary.

Jed adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Next meeting will be held, **February 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**



## WELCA Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 3, 2024

WELCA Board met on January 3, 2023 @ 1:01pm. Those attending were: Linda Hyde, June Swenson, Mae Becker, Deb Guyer and Marcia Wiedenhoff.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Checking balance: \$1701.90 Savings balance: \$2776.20 Quilting fund: \$549.40  
Motion to approve: June / Linda / Carried

### Old Business:

1. **2024 Election of Officers:** President/Secretary: Marcia Wiedenhoff Treasurer: Deb Guyer
2. **Year End Total Collections turned in to Synod from Circles:** 1/2 Offering: \$107.04  
Pennies \$105.14 Women in Crisis \$110.13
3. **Theme Quilt for Shepherd of the Hill 2024 Hog Roast:** Marcia will put together the top.
4. **Roasters:** Will purchase 3 from Walmart. They were priced at \$59.00 for 22 quart size. Will use credit from Thrivent Card.
5. **Unused Thrivent Card:** Balance is \$219.45
6. **Lent Service Schedule:** Ash Wednesday at West Clermont. Meal will be served at 5:30. Mary Circle will make Scalloped Potatoes & Ham. Ruth Circle will supply bars. Sarah Circle will supply fruit salad. Area churches will do a Round Robin again this year. West Clermont will host a meal and Church service on March 20. Will plan the meal at our March 6th meeting.
7. **Church Door Opened Early for Funeral and Special Events:** Linda Hyde and Marcia Wiedenhoff will volunteer to open doors early.
8. **New Duty Added to Yearly Duty List:** Duty of seasonal decorating and tending to fresh flowers was added to the yearly list. This new duty will be in rotation along with the other 2 yearly duties.
9. **Virtual Blue Christmas:** June reported that it was a very good service gearing toward those who have lost loved ones.
10. **Clermont 175th and Montauk 150th:** No new update.

### New Business:

1. **Correspondence:** Thank you from Katie's Fund and Family of John Yauslin.
2. **Soup Carry-Out Sunday:** February 25 we will sell soups after church. Marcia has pint and quart size containers. We will do the same as last year. Each circle is asked to make at least 3 different types of soup.
3. **Ordination for Vicar Mike:** WELCA will serve cake and refreshments following his Ordination on February 3, 2024. Maria will get cakes ordered.
4. **Mitten Tree:** Stephanie Spain will deliver the articles to Postville Elementary School.
5. **NO FEBRUARY MEETING**

**Sunday coffee Schedule:** January - Sarah February - Mary. March - Ruth

Coffee Hour Area: Sarah Kitchen: Mary Fresh Flowers/plants and Seasonal Decor: Ruth

**Altar Duties:** (January-April): Mary

**Motion to Adjourn:** 2:45pm Deb / Mae / Carried **Closing:** The Lord's Prayer

**Next Meeting:** March 6, 2024 @ 1:00

Submitted: *Marcia Wiedenhoff*, Board President/Secretary



## February, 2024

DATE	READER	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION	BREAD
2/4*	Stephanie Spain	Peyton Dean	Stephanie Spain	Stephanie Spain
2/11	Avery Donnelly	Mark Erickson		
2/14 (Ash Wednesday)	Mark Erickson	Natalie Bassett		
2/18	Diane Butikofer	Sutton Schrader		
2/25*	Karen Miller	Taylor Dean	Kathy Wander	Linda Hyde
2/28 (Lenten Service)	Deb Guyer	Bella Dirksen		

**February Ushers: Vince Spain, Greg Larson, Kyle Wander**



## Birthdays This Month February

02/03 Swenson LaVerne  
 02/09 Guyer Deborah  
 02/11 Wagner Diane  
 02/15 Guyer Jessica  
 02/17 Bassett Declan  
 02/19 Yauslin Marlene  
 02/21 Dirksen Isabella  
 02/29 Wander Nicholas

02/07 Hyde Dean  
 02/09 Nelson Judy  
 02/13 Erickson Mark  
 02/15 Phillips Benjamin  
 02/17 Bassett Raleigh  
 02/20 Lerch Declan  
 02/27 Amundson Albert

02/07 Ruckdashel Jaynee  
 02/10 West Karen  
 02/13 Wilker Jeanette  
 02/16 Severson Ray  
 02/19 Hyde Linda  
 02/20 Sampson Gladys  
 02/28 Franzen Katrina



## Offerings: December 31, 2023 – January 21, 2024

### Sunday, December 31, 2023

Copies: \$4.25

Regular: \$670.00

**Total General Fund: \$796.52**

Roof: \$180.00

Memorial: \$35.00 IMO Elliot Olson

### Attendance: 20

Noisy Can: \$22.27

Christmas: \$100.00

### Sunday, January 7, 2024

Copies: \$2.50

Initial: \$35.00

Noisy Can: \$51.92

**Total General Fund: \$2,073.42**

### Attendance: 66

Loose: \$136.00

Regular: \$1,848.00

### Sunday, January 14, 2024

Loose: \$11.00

**Total General Fund: \$4,744.68**

Roof: \$180.00

### Attendance: 14

Regular: \$4,715.00

Noisy Can: \$18.68

### Sunday, January 21, 2024

Noisy Can: \$36.92

Regular: \$810.00

**Total General Fund: \$997.92**

### Attendance: 51

Initial: \$10.00

Loose: \$81.00

# Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

## NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2024



We have had a wonderful year at Shepherd of the Hills. All of our events we hosted in 2023 were very successful, despite the increase of need. It is impressive to see the churches, community members and the businesses step up and give so graciously. Those generous efforts all year long we were able to meet the demand and serve the families in need. Shepherd of the Hills has been serving the area for decades and each year we reflect on what we have done for the communities. Honestly, I feel that the support we have seen in 2023 makes me feel confident that 2024 will be just as wonderful. We value all of our supporters, whether it is monetary, clothing, school supplies, holiday gifts/toys or even volunteering. I would like to thank you for all you have done and continue to do to help us help others. If we work together as a team, we can make great things happen. If you, your church or organization would like to contribute to our missions or events, please let me know. Fundraising ideas are greatly appreciated and welcomed. Our area youth have great ideas, so youth groups, 4H groups, schools...Let's make 2024 the best year yet! (See bottom left corner for financial donation protocol)

### Clothing Center Updates:

The clothing center is in need of blankets, bath towels, washcloths and all sizes of bedding. In order for the clothing center to operate smoothly, we need everyone to understand the importance of the donation schedule. This allows me to plan my day, have my volunteers in place and have time to get through the donations as they come in. To schedule your donations: call the office, select a date that is available and then your appointment is set. Pretty simple and easy to do. We have been getting some really nice donations and we certainly appreciate them. As always, our prices are great and we would love see you shop in the thrift store. Inventory changes daily, so plan on visiting us soon!

### Shepherd Conference News:

Our annual Conference Assembly is Feb. 18, 2024. This year's assembly is located at St. John's in Guttenberg, Ia. @ 2:00 pm. Delegates from each church should attend. Please help me in congratulating Pastor Micheal Erickson on his ordination February 3, 2024. He is the pastor at West Clermont Lutheran Church in Clermont.

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:

**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**



## February 2024, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

### Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

The idea behind Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is centered around love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

We give thanks to all our ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families.

At LSI, we see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building brighter futures, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other joyous moments.

You can help carry out LSI's mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

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.

*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).*



### Guided to the Cross Lenten Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Church</u>
Ash Wednesday Feb 14	Guided to Forgiveness	<i>Each church does their own service</i>
Week 1, Feb 21	Guided to Hope	<i>Illyria, Service at 7pm, snacks to follow</i>
Week 2, Feb 28	Guided to Love	<i>West Clermont, Service at 6:30pm, Meal at 5:30</i>
Week 3, March 6	Guided to Peace	<i>Elgin Lutheran, Service at 6:30, Meal <b>TBD</b></i>
Week 4, March 13	Guided to Trust	<i>St Paul's Methodist, Elgin, Services at 7pm, Meal <b>TBD</b></i>
Week 5, March 20	Guided to Perseverance	<i>West Clermont, Service at 6:30pm, Meal at 5:30pm</i>
Good Friday, March 29	Guided to Sacrifice	<i>East Clermont, Service at 6pm</i>




### 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, Gary Kittleson, 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.

Our thoughts and prayers for the family and friends of Elaine Noggle who passed away on January 25. Her funeral service is here today @ 1pm with visitation from 12-1pm.






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



**THANK YOU** to our outgoing council members, Jed Dean, Brant Schrader, Jesse Bassett & Sarah Dean.

 **"Souper Bowl" Food Pantry Offering.** Youth will have a Souper Bowl Collection on Sunday, Feb. 11th. The funds will be donated to Open Hands Food Pantry.



**Senior Game Day** is cancelled for February and March. It will resume in April.



**2024 WELCA Directories** are now available.



**Ash Wednesday Meal** will be served @ 5:30pm. Serving: Scalloped potatoes & ham, salads, bars, and beverage. Freewill Donation. **Worship** begins @ 6:30pm.



**ORDINATION & INSTALLATION-**  
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!**



**WELCA's Homemade Soup Sale**

Sunday, February 25 after worship  
Quart and pint size available.  
A wide variety to choose from.