



West Clermont Lutheran Church

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January, 2023 Newsletter



From Vicar Mike: The Season of Epiphany

On January 6th, we celebrate Epiphany. Epiphany reveals Jesus to the world. In Matthew 2:1-12, the magi bring gifts to honor Jesus. The symbolic meaning of each gift tells part of the story of who Jesus is: gold for a king, frankincense to honor the divine, myrrh for burial. We bring gifts to Jesus in our lives too in the form of our time, our labor, our talents, and our monetary offerings.

During the time after Epiphany, the church celebrates the gift of the gospel being shared throughout the world. There is no better reminder of this gift than the arrival of the magi. These are Gentiles, not Jews, the wrong people to show up. Even worse, they were astrologers, a practice forbidden by the Torah. Yet these are the people who travel long days to bring amazing gifts to Jesus. If the birth of Jesus is for the magi, surely the birth of Jesus is a gift for all people everywhere.

Discerning signs from God in our lives is often difficult. The Epiphany star was a sign from God that the magi knew to follow. God has not stopped giving signs to the world, and there are often “stars” in our lives that lead us to Jesus. Think about the times in your life when you had to make a big decision. What helped you make that decision? Did you ask God to help you? Did you receive some kind of sign? Let’s spend a little more time this year in prayer with God and look for the signs he gives us. Who knows what gifts we might find? We might find Jesus in the places we least expect. Amen.

Wishing you God’s Peace in the new year, *Vicar Mike*



West Clermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting – December 7, 2022

Present: Jed Dean, Brandt Schrader, Wendy Steffens, Amy Cummings, Isaiah Ruckdashel, Gene Ruckdashel, Kathy Wander, Jesse Bassett, Tasha Amundson, Nicole Jacobsen and Pastor Mike Erickson

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

Motion was made by Isaiah to approve the November minutes. Gene second, motion carried.

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

Jed reviewed the accounts payable. Jesse approved the payments. 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. Wendy second, motion carried.

Motion was made by Mary to provide a 6% raise for Tim Cummings, Deb Jacobsen and Lay Pastor Mike. Isaiah second, motion carried.

Council went through the proposed budget for 2023; Motion made by Isaiah to approve the proposed 2023 Budget, Jesse second, motion carried.

Pastor Report: Pastor is working on goals and meeting with the internship committee. He meets with his supervisor every Monday. The goals will be implemented for the next 10 months.

Christmas Caroling has been set for December 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. We anticipate going to the nursing homes but will confirm with them before going to West Union. In the event we cannot go to nursing homes we will do the Facebook live caroling. Pizza party to follow.

We have a new recipient in mind for the 1st Quarter noisy can. Amy will be checking with the recipient to verify they accept the donation.

Annual meeting is set for January 15th at 10:30 a.m. with the back-up date being January 22nd.

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 December 22, 2022.

Next council meeting will be the annual meeting.

Annual reports are due December 30th.

Motion made by Nicole to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Isaiah second, motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



WELCA Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 7, 2022

WELCA Board met on December 7, 2022 @ 1:00 pm. Those attending were; Mae Becker, June Swenson, , Deb Guyer and Marcia Wiedenhoff.

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

Treasurer's Report: Reported by Deb Guyer Checking balance: \$2545.20 Savings balance: \$2768.67 Quilting fund: \$329.18 Motion to approve: June/ Mae / Carried

Old Business:

1. **Giving Tree:** All tags are filled. WELCA will not need to fill any.
2. **Mitten:** Up and ready to fill.
3. **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).
4. **LWR Truck:** November 5. Thank You to Linda and Dean Hyde for delivery.
5. **Thank Offering:** November 20. Deb Guyer reported \$694.80 in offering with more coming in.
6. **2023 WELCA Officers:** President/Secretary : Marcia Wiedenhoff Treasurer : Deb Guyer
7. **Host Cluster I Spring Gathering:** West Clermont will host Cluster I Spring Gathering 2023 on the 1st Saturday after Easter. Will plan as the date gets closer.
8. **Shechem Cluster I Board:** Looking for a volunteer to serve a 3 year term.

New Business:

1. **Correspondence:** Thank You from EWALU, LSI, Helping Services, Fayette County Food Shelf, Lutheran World Relief, Global Health Ministries and Katie's Fund.
2. **Lent Services:** If we join other churches, we will do a meal on the night we host.
3. **Year End Circle Funds:** Circle Treasures are to turn the Women in Crisis, Pennies and 1/2 offering funds into Deb Guyer after the December meeting and before the end of the year.
4. **Shechem Cluster I Board:** Marcia Wiedenhoff will do a 3 year term.
5. **WELCA Directory:** Get 2023 information to Church Secretary that is to be put into the Directory. Check for Phone # changes.
6. **2023 Circle Duties:** All Duties will resume January 2023. Altar Duty (Changing Cloth and Prepare Communion) will try 4 Month increments and will rearrange rotation at the beginning of each year.
7. **Large volume of beans and rice in Food Pantry:** These items are not usually taken. Ideas to use them? Make soups to sell.

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

Altar Duties (Jan, Feb, March and April): Sarah **Coffee Hour Area** (Yearly) : Mary

Kitchen (Yearly) : Ruth

Motion to Adjourn: 1:40 June / Deb / Carried

Closing: The Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: January 4, 2023 @ 1:00

Submitted: Marcia Wiedenhoff, Board President/Secretary



January, 2023

DATE	READERS	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION
1/1*	Avery Donnelly	Lainy Donnelly	Mala Erickson
1/8	Sarah Dean	Ryan Dean	
1/15	Brailyn Dirksen	Bella Dirksen	
1/22*	Aaron Steffens	Peyton Dean	Kyle or Kathy Wander
1/29	Stephanie Spain	Sutton Schrader	

January Ushers: Brant & Kay Schrader and Kyle & Brendan Wander



Birthdays This Month

January

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01/01 Rowland Vicki | 01/04 Anderson Emma | 01/09 Dean Peyton |
| 01/09 Wander Daniel | 01/15 Hyde Dustin | 01/15 Steffens Alan |
| 01/15 Swenson Richard | 01/18 Wilker Ronna | 01/20 Severson LuAnn |
| 01/20 Spain Spencer | 01/23 Amundson LuAnn | 01/23 Monteith Kenny |
| 01/23 Nelson Danyell | 01/24 Nelson Ayva | 01/25 Kress Steven |
| 01/28 Massman Kylah | 01/29 Lerch Maxwell | 01/30 Loftsgard Roger |
| 01/31 Anderson April | | |



Offerings: November 27, 2022 – December 25, 2022

Sunday, November 27, 2022

Copies: \$12.00
 Noisy Can: \$56.20
 Loose: \$25.00
 Regular: \$3,020.00
Total General Fund: \$3,333.52
 Building Fund /roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 43

Giving Tree: \$100.32
 Painting Project: \$20.00
 Thanksgiving: \$100.00

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Regular: \$1,200.00
 Noisy Can: \$70.84
 Brunch: \$492.00 (Painting Fund)
Total General Fund: \$1,834.84
 Building Fund/roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 67

Loose: \$72.00

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Regular: \$1,240.00

Noisy Can: \$43.25

Paint Project: \$182.20 (\$120 reg/\$62.20 Dairy Producers)

Christmas: \$25.00

Total General Fund: \$1,662.45

Building Fund/roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 64

Loose: \$72.00

Giving Tree: \$100.00

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Caroling Pizza Money: \$55.00

Christmas: \$27.00

Painting Fund: \$1,850.00

Total General Fund: \$3,529.24

Building Fund / Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 90

Loose: \$165.00

Noisy Can: \$37.24

Regular :\$1,395.00

Saturday, December 24, 2022

Loose: \$143.00

Paint Project: \$520.00

Noisy Can: \$45.70

Total General Fund: \$2,653.70

Roof / Bldg Fund: \$90.00

Attendance: 66

Regular: \$1,800.00

Christmas: \$145.00

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Noisy Can: \$1.00

Regular: \$70.00

Total General Fund: \$71.00

Attendance: 9




Prayer List

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

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.

 Please keep his family and friends of Violet Guyer in your thoughts and prayers. A celebration of life will be held at a later date for Violet.

January 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) works to provide services to Iowa children and families and to share their stories with the community. As a way of amplifying our communities' voices, we invite you to be a part of the annual Lutheran Day on the Hill event.

Join Lutheran Services in Iowa and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines on March 14, 2023! This day is essential for amplifying the voices of those who are not heard, for seeking social justice and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process.

If you are interested in joining LSI for Lutheran Day on the Hill, visit our website at <https://lsiowa.org/ldh/>. 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.

A Journey of Overwhelming Joy

After going through fertility treatments and being told they weren't able to have any more kids, Dani and her husband pursued their foster care license in 2015 and have cared for 13 kids since.

"Throughout our journey of being foster parents, we've had many great placements," said Dani. "Our shortest placement lasted five days when we cared for a girl, whose mother was incapable of watching her while she recovered in the hospital, and our longest lasted 18 months."

Dani shared that one of their biggest blessings was having the opportunity to adopt some of the children they fostered. The family adopted their first child at age one, and they had plans to adopt another when the child turned 18 years old.

"Every time our family adopts another child, I get the same feeling of overwhelming joy," said Dani. "I feel like any expectant mom –not being able to contain my joy when their adoption comes up, and telling everyone I know about it."

Dani shared that it is hard to explain the full impact fostering – and the lows and highs it brings – has had on her family. "We've cried, stressed and lost a lot of sleep. We loved, laughed and had so many firsts," said Dani. "But I still tell everyone who is considering being a foster parent to do it. It's a roller coaster, but so worth it."



OFFICE
HOURS

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.



Men's Group will meet Saturday, January 14th @ 8:30am at the church.



Quilters will resume on Tuesday, January 10th @ 9am.



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.



Paint Project Donations and Matching Gift. Double your donation! Thanks to the kindness of an anonymous donor; beginning December 11th, all paint project donations will be matched (up to \$10,000 in new donations).



Bread Providers Needed. If you would like to provide bread for communion, please let the office know. We will be returning to traditional communion at the beginning of the year.



Annual Reports will be available at church beginning Sunday, January 1st.



West Clermont's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 15th, following service.



2023 Offering Envelopes are available for pickup in the back of church. If you do not see your name and would like envelopes, please contact the office.