



West Clermont Lutheran Church

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

Council President

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Pastor

Mike Erickson
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January 2025 Newsletter



From Pastor Mike:

I hope everyone had a wonderful time with family and friends over Christmas and New Years. I want to thank the whole congregation for your generous support of the Christmas Giving Tree. Every year we participate in the Giving Tree which is sponsored by Parent Share & Support. They reach out to us in the fall to see how many families we can support. Over the last ten years we have been able to support two families each year. The families in need all come from Fayette County and are anonymous, so we never know any names. This year we had a total of five kids between the two families. Each child receives 5 things they need and 5 things they want. The presents we provide are the only presents that these families receive. With your generous support, we were able to give a great Christmas to these two families.

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.

Pastor Mike

Present: Randy Wiedenhoff, Tasha Massman, Kathy & Kyle Wander, Kenny Monteith, Brittany Bassett, Rodney Wagner, Pastor Mike Erickson & Teagan Schrader.

Randy called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Pastor Mike opened with prayer.

Motion made by to Rodney approve the agenda. Brittany second, motion carried.

Nov minutes read. Motion made Tasha to approve the minutes. Kyle second, motion carried.

Treasurer report: All routine receipts for November. Rodney made a motion to move \$2,000 back into the property management fund from general fund that was borrowed. Kenny second, motion carried. Kathy will reach out to council members via email if/when the funds will be transferred. Brittany made a motion to accept the Nov. treasurer report. Kenny second, motion carried.

Council meeting will be held in January along with annual meeting. Motion made by Kenny to next council meeting Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. To have monthly meeting prior to have annual meeting held in January.

Pastor's Report: Pastor switching office hours to Wednesdays & Thursdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Attending bible study Tuesday mornings. Status quo and boiler system is operating well, no leaking.

Old Business/Committee Reports:

A. Stewardship Drive: Will keep this as placeholder and bring up at annual meeting.

B. Roof Leak: Roof has been repaired & caulked. No leaks thus far. Will need new roof if solar does get put on.

New Business:

A. Budget for 2025

- a. Wages and raises were discussed. Will be included in the annual meeting. Congregation will not be getting personalized offering envelopes. Generic envelopes in office & also at usher's table.

B. Annual Meeting is on January 19, 2025 with January 26th as the snow date.

- a. **Annual Reports** are due December 31st.

- i. Report will be available by Sunday, January 5th.

C. Lent 2025: Starting in March- tentative plan on holding lent services on our own every Wednesday.

D. Flag: Flag is worn out and needs replaced.

Announcements & Important Dates

A. Newsletter items are due by Friday, December 22nd.

B. Copper Creek Service is Wed., December 11th @ 10:30am.

C. Bench for Khaki Nelson completed.

D. Pr. Liz Bell from the Synod will be at the **February 2025 Council Meeting**.

E. Congratulations to Hudson Lee Connor who was baptized on November 10th.

F. Senior Fun Day is December 11th from 2-4pm.

G. Giving Tree. Gifts due back by December 15th.

H. Operation Christmas Child. Youth packed 150 boxes.

I. Christmas Schedule

- a. **Children's Program.** Scheduled for December 22nd.

- b. **Christmas Eve.** Tuesday, Dec. 24th. Service @ 7pm.

J. Office Closed Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

K. Vespers: Community choir will sing at Union Sunday School this Sunday.

Closing Prayer/Adjourn

Motion made by Rodney to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Kenny second, motion carried.
We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



WELCA Board Minutes, December 4, 2024

WELCA Board met on December 4, 2024 @ 1:00 pm. Those attending were: Linda Hyde, June Swenson, Deb Guyer, Mae Becker, and Marcia Wiedenhoff.

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

Treasurer's Report: Checking balance: \$3,682.55 Savings balance: \$3,226.36 Quilting fund: \$418.05
Motion to approve: June/ Linda/ Carried.

Old Business

1. **Thank Offering:** November 24. \$349.98. Down 1/2 from last year. Did not send out letters this year. See what happens this next year.
2. **Mitten Tree:** Items will be taken to NFV Elementary in Elgin.
3. **Family Giving Tree:** 11 tags were left. Deb J. Ordered items. Bill to WELCA is \$138.38. If new \$ come in, it will be given to WELCA to lessen the cost. Some discussion of why some many gifts per person in a family. June partially explained. Deb J will be asked to attend the circle meetings for further explanation.
4. **2024 Giving Disbursements: Total \$1,225.** *Fayette County Food Shelf-\$300. ELCA Good Gifts-\$300. EWALU-\$125. LSI-\$125. Helping Hands-\$125. Global Ministries-\$125. Katie's Fund-\$125.*
5. **Kitchen Clean-up:** Has been done and ready for Sarah Circle to take over 2025.

New Business:

1. **Correspondence:** Thank You's from: Helping Services, LSI, EWALU, Fayette County Food Shelf and Global Health ministries. Newsletters from Star and Good News.
2. **Election of Officers 2025:** President/Secretary: Marcia Wiedenhoff. Treasurer: Deb Guyer.
Motion: June/ Linda/ Carried.
3. **Year End Circle accounts:** Turn in accounts to Deb ASAP following December meetings.
4. **January meeting:** No meeting in January.
5. **Soup Carryout Fundraiser:** To be brought up at circle meetings. If it is a GO, Marcia will do a Thrivent card to purchase the costly ingredients for all soups to be made. And purchase more containers. More discussion at February meeting.
6. **Lent 2025:** We will have time to address this at our February meeting. Wait to see if we do services only at West Clermont or with Community churches.
7. **Funeral Dinner Board:** Wanting to put a list together of church member available to help. They will check into some suggested names.
8. **Blue Lent Altar Cloth:** After the meeting it was brought to Marcia's attention that we still have the old Blue Altar cloth that needs the rod and extra white Altar clothes. Deb J helped find one and VIA messaging, it was unanimous to order the new one. Deb found a coupon that saved us \$50. Total cost \$261.21.

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

2025 Yearly Tasks: Coffee Hour Area-Sarah. Kitchen: Mary. Flowers/plants & Seasonal Décor: Ruth

Altar Duties: December: Sarah. January-April, 2025-Mary.

Motion to Adjourn: 1:46pm. Deb/ Mae/ Carried. **Closing:** The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: February 5, 2025 @ 1:00pm Submitted: Marcia Wiedenhoff, Board President/Secretary.



January, 2025

DATE	READER	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION	BREAD
*1/5	Natalie Bassett	Sutton Schrader	Kayleen Schrader	Karen Kohls
1/12	Stacy Cummings	Avery Lerch		
1/19	Teagan Schrader	Keegan Klemp		
*1/26	Taylor Dean	Jared Dean	Deb Guyer	Betty Helgerson

January Ushers: Jed and Peyton Dean, Brant Schrader



01/01 Rowland Vicki	01/04 Anderson Emma	01/05 Wagner Kathy	01/09 Dean Peyton
01/09 Wander Danny	01/14 Massman Lila	01/15 Steffens Alan	01/15 Swenson Rick
01/18 Wilker Ronna	01/20 Severson LuAnn	01/20 Spain Spencer	01/23 Amundson LuAnn
01/23 Monteith Kenny	01/24 Nelson Ayva	01/25 Kress Steven	01/28 Massman Kylah
01/30 Loftsgard Roger	01/31 Anderson April		



Offerings: November 24, 2024 – December 22, 2024

Sunday, November 24, 2024

Loose: \$33.00

Noisy Can: \$40.89

Total General Fund: \$1,068.89

Attendance: 65

Regular: \$955.00

Thanksgiving: \$40.00

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Loose: \$19.00

Flow Thru: \$100.00

Thanksgiving: \$55.00

Total General Fund: \$1,295.32

Building Fund 185.00 (Roof: \$180.00/ Regular: \$5.00)

Attendance: 50

Copies: \$3.75

Regular: \$1,080.00

Noisy Can: \$37.57

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Loose: \$46.65

Basement Rental: \$100.00

Total General Fund: \$5,739.27

Building Fund: \$175.00 (Regular: 50.00, Solar: \$35.00, Roof: \$90.00)

Attendance: 70

Regular: \$5,151.36

Flow Thru: \$399.59

Noisy Can: \$41.67

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Basement Rental: \$50.00

Noisy Can: \$22.59

Regular: \$2,330.00

Total General Fund: \$2,503.59

Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 36

Loose: \$1.00

Christmas: \$100.00

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Flow thru: \$15.00

Noisy Can: \$59.55

Regular: \$855.00

Total General Fund: \$1,021.55

Attendance: 115

Loose: \$67.00

Christmas: \$25.00



The new year brings new beginnings. At LSI, we walk alongside Iowans for all sorts of beginnings. We walk alongside parents-to-be as they prepare for the birth of their child. We welcome immigrants and refugees as they begin their new lives in Iowa. We train parents looking to adopt a child and create a new beginning for their family.

This January, we offer Thomas's story of his new beginning.

In 1996, Congolese civil war broke out in the present-day countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of the Congo, forcing then two-year-old Thomas Mbuthu into exile in a refugee camp in neighboring Zambia. After growing up in a refugee camp, now 27-year-old Thomas applied to come to the United States.

When Thomas landed at the Des Moines airport in an entirely foreign land in a state called Iowa, LSI caseworker Patrick Karemera greeted him.

"I said, 'Welcome! This is your new home now! I am your brother. This is a new life. Feel free and feel safe,'" shared Patrick, recounting his initial meeting with his client Thomas.

Thomas thanked him, explaining he had not expected to see someone like Patrick welcome him – someone who looked like himself and spoke his native languages of Lingala and Swahili.

"As a refugee, I wanted a better life. But I didn't know where I was going. 'What is going to happen to me?'" wondered Thomas aloud.

"When Patrick came to me, I could see the future."

Patrick is from the same country as Thomas, coming to America just a few years prior. He works as a caseworker to welcome refugees to Iowa and helps them resettle, pursue their goals, and navigate the challenges of an entirely foreign place.

"I immigrated here, like Thomas. It's rewarding to welcome somebody like me to come here to Iowa. This is my second home," said Patrick.

Patrick admires how courageous, open-minded, and curious Thomas is. He encourages his client to dream big and work hard to achieve his goals.

"Life is about helping each other," shared Patrick.

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.



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.

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.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2025



And that is a “wrap”! Christmas for Kids is now completed, Thank you does not seem to cover the outpouring of support we received for this project. The donations are greatly appreciated. The quilts were beautiful, the books were a great assortment and let’s just say... I may have tested some of the pretty cool toys! I can only imagine how the kids will feel opening up these gifts for Christmas. All of you should feel a little joy knowing you were a big part of a brighter Christmas for these families!

Clothing Center Updates:

We will not be accepting any Christmas items until next year. Winter items will only be accepted from now until March. We appreciate a scheduled day for your donations to maintain the flow and schedule volunteers accordingly. Just a side note... My mom has decided to take a small step back from volunteering so if you are interested in volunteering, please call the office.

Shepherd Conference News:

Congratulations to Pastor Michael Ashman (St. Paul Lutheran and St. John Lutheran- both in Guttenberg) on the anniversary of his ordination on January 3, 1993.

I will be working on the Conference Assembly paperwork. 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.

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 16th @ 2pm
(snow date of Feb. 23)
St. Paul, Volga**

*Any event may be subject to change

Shepherd of the Hills:

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**Business Hours: Monday-Friday
9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm**



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



Senior Game Day is on January 8th & 22nd, from 2-4pm. Come join us for some snacks and fun! All are welcome!



Luther League will meet on Wed., Jan. 15th @ 6pm to plan fundraiser. Soup is the meal.



QUILTING. Quilters will resume on Tuesday, January 7th.



Confirmation Class will resume on Wednesday, January 8th, following school.



Nominations are now open for council positions and various church committees for 2025. 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.



WCLC Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 19th**, following worship service. Reports will be available for review by January 5th. Snow date for the meeting is Jan. 26th.



Installation of the 2025 Church Council Members will take place on Sunday, January 26th. If the Annual Meeting is postponed to this date, installation will take place the following Sunday.

*Where your
treasure is,
there will
your heart
be also.
Matt. 6:21*

My Offering

Name _____

Address _____

Amount _____

Offering Envelopes for 2025 have changed.

Members will no longer receive personalized offering envelopes. Instead, envelopes like the one pictured will be available for you in the church office & also at the usher's table in the sanctuary. You can pick up an envelope each Sunday or take a few home. Please make sure your name is on the envelope, so your contribution can be recorded properly.



NEW YEAR'S
BLESSINGS!