



West Clermont Lutheran Church

PO Box 327
221 Larrabee St.
Clermont, IA 52135
Ph: 563-423-7170
Email: wclc@acegroup.cc
Website: www.westclermontlutheranchurch.com

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

Pastor

Mike Erickson

Email: merickson99@yahoo.com
Phone: 423-5122 (Home) or 563-422-1687 (Cell)

Council President

Randy Wiedenhoff

Email: randyfirechief7@gmail.com
Phone: 563-380-3406

March 2025 Newsletter



From Pastor Mike: Ash Wednesday and Lent 2025

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. 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. This same council also established the calculation used to determine the date of Easter each year. Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first Full Moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. That is why the date of Easter can be so different from year to year.

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,

Pastor Mike

Present: Randy Wiedenhoff, Kathy & Kyle Wander, Lainy Donnelly, Aric Steffens, Diane Butikofer, Kenny Monteith, Brittany Bassett, Jed Dean and Pastor Mike Erickson.

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

Jed made a motion/nomination for Randy to remain President; Diane to remain Vice Present, Brittany as Secretary; Motion carried.

Pastor Mike had an Update to Agenda; Pastor Liz unable to attend due to weather. Will try again in March. Swapping a and b in old business to address committee chair positions first. Motion made by to Randy to approve the agenda. Diane second, motion carried. January minutes read. Motion made by Kenny to approve the minutes. Aric second, motion carried.

Treasurer report: Jed made motion to accept treasures report. Aric second, motion carried. All routine receipts for January. Motion made by Jed to approve treasurers report. Kenny second, motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike will be ordering a couple books for continuing Ed. Approx. \$125 plus shipping. Ecumenical Lent services.

Old Business/Committee Reports:

A. Committee Chair Positions

- a. **Parish Education** – Brittany Bassett
- b. **Property Management** – Randy Wiedenhoff
- c. **Audit Committee** – Kyle Wander
- d. **Worship/Music/Arts** – Lainy Donnelly
- e. **Memorial/Scholarship** – Diane Butikofer
- f. **EWALU Representative** – Aric Steffens
- g. **SOTH Representative** – Randy Wiedenhoff
New Member sheet will be updated and available

B. Roof/Solar Panels

- a. No update to bids on roof; Randy got some new bids on Solar Panels. Solar financing is available without full amount up front. Roof will have to be done first; and funds will need to be available up front. Aric and Randy will work on getting 2-3 roof bids before the next meeting in March.

C. Other

- a. Pictorials just came in today; Deb will be organizing them and they will be distributed.

New Business

A. **SOTH Assembly – February 16th @2PM. St. Paul's in Volga.**

B. **Lent 2025** Will be ecumenical with area churches.

- a. **Schedule: Palm Sunday and regular Easter Services will be at individual churches.**

Announcements & Important Dates

A. **Insurance Inspection.** On Thursday, Feb. 6th @10am.

B. **Copper Creek Service** is Wed., February 12th @10:30am.

C. **Senior Fun Day** is February 12th & 26th from 2-4pm.

D. **Funeral Service** for Lois Miller is Saturday, February 22nd @11am.

E. **Baptism** for Beckett Ruckdashel is Sunday, February 16th.

F. **Luther League "Souper" Bowl Collection** for Open Hands Food Pantry is Sunday, Feb. 9th.

G. **Luther League Spaghetti Dinner** is Sunday, February 16th from 5-7pm

H. **WELCA Soup to Go Sale** is Sunday, February 23rd following service.

I. **Noisy Can 1st Quarter** is going to JoAnn Bishop.

Closing Prayer/Adjourn

Motion made by Kyle to adjourn at 6:37pm. Diane second, motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



WELCA Board, February 5, 2025

WELCA Board met on February 5, 2024 @ 1:02pm. Those attending were: Linda Hyde, June Swenson, Deb Guyer, Mae Becker and Marcia Wiedenhoff.

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

Treasurer’s Report: Checking balance: \$3,076.20 Savings balance: \$3,227.73 Quilting fund: \$418.05
Motion to approve: June / Mae / Carried

Old Business

- 1. Soup Carryout Fundraiser:** February 23 following church service. Chicken Gumbo, Chili, Taco, Potato, Cheeseburger, Chicken Wild Rice, Ham -n- Bean, and Split Pea -n- Ham. Marcia, Linda and Mae will have Fresh Baked Bread to sell also. Quart \$9.00 Pint \$6.00 Bread \$5.00
- 2. Year End Circle Offerings:** 1/2 Offering = \$63.75 / Pennies = \$88.25 / Women in Crisis =\$81.00
- 3. Blue Advent Cloth:** Replaced the old one for \$261.21.

New Business:

- 1. Correspondence:** Thank You from: Women of the ELCA, Katie’s Fund, ELCA Good Gifts, and newsletter from Global Health Ministries.
- 2. Lent 2025:** Ash Wednesday March 5. No meal this night. WCLC will host March 12th. 6:00 - 6:45. Service at 7:00. Menu: Maidrites, buns and milk (Marcia), Salads (Each circle supply 2), bars (each circle supply 1). Drinks.
- 3. M & M Retreat: Martha and Mary Retreat at EWALU** February 21 4:00, February 22 8:00 to 3:00. Option to stay overnight.
- 4. Sunday school Restock:** Cleaning out cupboards. WELCA will donate \$100 to help resupply. June/Linda/Carried
- 5. Cupboards in Kitchen:** Marcia will contact Property Management about loose hinges on some of the cupboards.

Sunday coffee Schedule: February – Mary. March – Ruth. April – Sarah.

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

Altar Duties (January thru April) Ruth. (May thru August) Sarah. (September thru December): Mary.

Motion to Adjourn: 1:50pm. Deb / Mae / Carried

Closing: The Lord’s Prayer **Next Meeting:** March 5, 2025 @ 1:00

Submitted: *Marcia Wiedenhoff*, Board President/Secretary



Worship Assistants- March, 2025

DATE	READER	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION	BREAD
*3/2	Mark Erickson	Celia Klemp	Marcia Wiedenhoff	Marcia Wiedenhoff
3/9	Deb Guyer	Celia or Keegan		
3/12 (Lenten Wed.)	Amy Cummings	Klay Monteith		
3/16	Rodney Wagner	Natalie Bassett		
*3/23	June Swenson	Ryan Dean	Deb Guyer	Arline Davisson
3/30	Kathy Wander	Brailyn Dirksen		

March Ushers: Dean Hyde, Jerry Anderson, Rodney Wagner



03/01 Zimmer Susan
 03/09 Olson Ramona
 03/12 Jacobsen Deb
 03/14 Amundson Brittany
 03/17 Alexander Kerigan
 03/25 Brainard Chuck

03/02 Kohls Karen
 03/10 Johansen Liz
 03/12 Johansen Benjamin
 03/15 Dinan Colleen
 03/19 Cummings Claire
 03/28 Knickerbocker Ashton

03/03 Lerch Kirstin
 03/11 Swenson Carol
 03/13 Dirksen Jacob
 03/16 Kleppe Olivia
 03/22 Howard Trevor



Offerings: January 26, 2025 – February 23, 2025

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Loose: \$26.00
 Regular: \$445.00
Total General Fund: \$597.59
 Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 51

Noisy Can: \$126.59

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Loose: \$73.00
 Copies: \$3.25
 Regular: \$1,185.00
Total General Fund: \$1,412.01
 Memorial: \$20.00 IMO Lois Miller

Attendance: 54

Noisy Can: \$40.61
 Basement Rental: \$50.00
 Refund(Nexus): \$60.15

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Loose: \$1.00
 LL Souper Bowl Collection for Open Hands Food Pantry: \$172.11
 Regular: \$965.00
Total General Fund: \$1,138.11
 Roof: \$180.00

Attendance: 52

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Loose: \$15.00
 Regular: \$2,810.00
Total General Fund: \$2,925.72
 Memorials: \$86.72 (IMO Lois Miller: \$20 / IMO Millard Nelson: \$50)
 Scholarship Memorial IMO of Millard Nelson: \$16.72

Attendance: 60

Noisy Can: \$85.72


Sunday, February 23, 2025

Loose: \$31.00
 Regular: \$1,075.00
Total General Fund: \$1,292.81
 Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 68

Noisy Can: \$136.81
 Funeral Programs: \$50.00

 May God's blessing be upon **Beckett Lee Ruckdashel**, son of Isaiah & Lexi Ruckdashel who was baptized on February 16th, 2025. Sponsors for Beckett are Logan West, Lynzee West and Larissa Glenn.

 May God's blessing be upon **Beckham Rodney Helgerson**, son of John & Danielle Helgerson who will be baptized on March 1, 2025. Sponsors for Beckham are Bob Helgerson and Gabrielle Kriegel.



Luther League and Confirmation students are organizing a clothing drive to donate to Shepherd of the Hills in St. Olaf. They are currently accepting Spring, Summer Clothing, Newborn-Adult sizes for boys/girls/men/women; Shoes, including flip flops, sandals, sneakers and shoes with open toes. When donating, please make sure items are either new or used in good condition (clean; no holes/tears; zippers work; no missing buttons, etc.)

Sunday, February 23, 2025- “Step up and share the Love”

Donate shoes and sandals this Sunday!

Sunday, March 2, 2025- “Warm hearts start with warm feet”

Bring NEW socks and undergarments to give this Sunday!

Sunday, March 9, 2025- “Self-Care Sunday”

Help us spread hygiene and hope - donate hygiene items this Sunday!

Sunday, March 16, 2025- “Clothing Care Sunday”

Change a life with kindness - donate clothing this Sunday!

Luther League/Confirmation students will volunteer at Shepherd of the Hills the night of March 19 and deliver the items collected from this drive. All items donated are appreciated!

2025 Lenten & Holy Week Schedule

Date	Meal/Service Times	Church
March 5 (Ash Wednesday)	5:30pm/7pm	Highland Lutheran Church
March 12	5:30pm/7pm	West Clermont Lutheran Church
March 19	5:30pm/7pm	Elgin Lutheran Church
March 26	5:30pm/7pm	St. Paul’s United Methodist Church
April 2	No Meal/7pm-dessert following service	Illyria Community Church
April 9	TBA/7pm	East Clermont Lutheran Church
April 17 (Maundy Thursday)	No Meal/7pm	West Clermont Lutheran Church
April 18 (Good Friday)	No Meal/7pm	St. Paul’s United Methodist Church
April 20 (Easter Sunrise Service)	No Meal/ 7am @ Elgin Cemetery	IF inclement weather will be at First Baptist



West

Clermont

Lenten Meal and

Service is Wed.,

Mar 12th. Meal

begins at 5:30pm;

Serving:

maidrites, salads,

and bars. Free

will offering.

Service begins @

7pm.



LSI serves Iowans of all ages; families with newborns navigating parenthood, refugee and immigrant elders, and children of all ages. One of the most crucial populations LSI serves is children in middle and high school. April Howe of LSI shares the impact of LSI programming that she sees in schools across Iowa.

“I love it when a whole classroom of middle schoolers run down the auditorium hallway for an LSI class shouting ‘April!’ with excitement, ready to learn about healthy relationship skills and self-esteem,” said April Howe, a Program Supervisor for LSI’s Clinical Services team.

Our LSI Clinical Services team provides various local community programs in schools across Iowa. Whether it’s mental health therapy or programs providing teen pregnancy education, they all share the goal of wrapping care around adolescents at a local level.

Specifically, April and her team conduct two community programs in nine northwest Iowa counties: Community Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CAPP) and Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP).

CAPP supports and educates Iowa youth by providing sexual health and pregnancy prevention classes for healthy and successful relationships. PREP helps youth build social, emotional, and life skills to develop a positive sense of self and to connect with peers in their community. PREP utilizes the Teen Outreach Program and Wise Guys evidence-based curriculum.

“Thank you for teaching our class and taking time out of your day to come to our school. I learned a lot about healthy relationships and how to handle my anger and other emotions. You opened my eyes to my family’s habits and what I want to take with me when I have a family of my own.”

– High school student to LSI staff member

“The letters that high school students write to our staff about what they learned in class and how they will use the knowledge in their everyday life shows the programs’ tremendous impact,” said April. “We meet the youth where they are at, but also encourage healthy decision-making along the way, which plays a huge role in making prevention education successful.”

Furthermore, April’s team encourages conversation and participation by providing incentives in the classroom, such as packaged snacks and other LSI materials. “When it comes to engagement in the classroom, I always say, ‘When their stomachs are full, their brains are full,’” shared April with a smile. “Some students would skip school all day, but they show up to the last class of the day, taught by LSI. That, right there, is a win for my team.”

April’s team has seen significant success in response to their CAPP and PREP community programs. Based on a post-program evaluation, 96% of students in the CAPP program reported that they learned “some” or “a lot” that they didn’t already know about sexual health topics, and 53% agreed that they are now more likely to start conversations about these topics with others.

“Pregnancy rates have dropped over the last four years in many of our counties served, proving our services are making a difference in our communities,” said April. “Reaching the youth on their level and prioritizing prevention makes our program successful.”

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 – MARCH 2025



Thank you all for the well wishes. I am feeling better and back to work! I am pleased to announce our new website. Please take a look at it as we will be adding more items in the near future. The website is...

shepherdofthehillsstolaf.org

We would also like to share that we have applied for our 501c3 status for non-profits. This will open many opportunities for Shepherd of the Hills. Extra funding will allow us to explore more ways to offer services in our area. It takes time for this process, but we are excited for this change.

Clothing Center Updates:

We are open for business. M-F: 9am to noon and 1-4pm. Since my time off I decided it was time to restructure how we operate. I have enlisted some volunteers to help keep the store open for our clients and customers. We have more regular hours and I am hoping that this will allow us to have more Saturday Sales in the future. We are still taking scheduled donations for winter items. Spring and summer items will be accepted starting April 1st. Please make sure your items are free from rips, stains, holes (Unless factory made) and in good working order. We appreciate your patience as we transition through new changes,

Shepherd Conference News:

Confest will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Monona on
April 30th from 5:45-7:45pm.

This event is open to all conference churches with confirmation students and chaperones. There will be fun activities, worship and lunch served. RSVP is required. All churches are encouraged to attend along with Pastors.

Ascension Day Service will be at Ceres Pioneer Rock Church on May 29th, 2025 at 5:30pm. There will be a potluck after at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Garnavillo. All are welcome to attend. Rain or shine.

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:

Confest- April 30. 2025

Ascension Day Service- May 29th, 2025

NE Iowa Synod Assembly June 6-7, 2025

*Any event may be subject to change

Shepherd of the Hills:

Heather Hageman
100 W. Hill Street, PO Box 36,
St. Olaf, IA 52072

Telephone: 563-783-2409


Fax: 563-783-2428


E-mail: shephill@neitel.net


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





 **Noisy Can Offering** for 1st Quarter will go to JoAnn Bishop to help with expenses incurred during this time of illness.


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


 **2025 Summer Camp Program Guides** are now available in the entryway downstairs. **West Clermont Camperships are available.** Please contact the church office for the form.

 **Open Hands Food Pantry Needs Volunteers** for the following areas; stocking, cleaning, and organizing shelves; assisting on Tuesdays for all or some of the day; pick up food rescue items; hang posters; organize donation drives. Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds on occasion. Contact Open Hands @ 563-422-2150 or @ www.openhandswu@gmail.com.

 **Church Pictorial Directories are here!!** If you had your picture taken or submitted a picture, then there is a directory with your name on it. There are extras, so if you were unable to participate, you can still have one. Extras are on a first come, first serve basis.

 **4H Omelet Brunch & Silent Auction** is Sun., March 9th from 9am-1pm @ the Fairgrounds Dance Pavilion. Tickets are \$10, 5 & under are free. Serving: pancakes, made-to-order omelets, applesauce, beverage.

 **Ash Wednesday Worship** is March 5th @ 7pm. It will be held at Highland Lutheran Church as part of our ecumenical Lenten Worships. Free will offering Ham & Potato Meal from 5:30-6:45pm.

 **Country in the Hills Spring Craft Show** is Sat. March 15th from 9am-4pm @ The Heritage Farm Park. Lunch available 11-2pm. Local crafters. WELCA will have a table with quilts and cookbooks.