



West Clermont Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: Monday thru Friday
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March 2023 Newsletter

Vicar

Mike Erickson

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From Vicar Mike: Ash Wednesday and Lent

Lent is here. Easter is not far away. This year we are planning to participate in the Ecumenical Lenten Services with other churches in the area. Our turn for the Lenten service is on March 29. Palm Sunday is April 2. We will hold our own Maundy Thursday service on April 6. There will be an ecumenical Good Friday service on April 7. Easter is April 9. 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 of Lenten history. 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 is where much of the other church doctrine of the time was decided.

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 think about the sacrifice that Jesus made to save us from our sins. It is a time to look with anticipation on the joys of Easter Morning. God's peace be with you as we journey through Lent.

Peace,
Vicar Mike



West Clermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting- February 1, 2023

Present: Jed Dean, Brant Schrader, Isaiah Ruckdashel, Kathy Wander, Kyle Wander, Jesse Bassett, Tasha Massman, Sarah Dean, Randy Wiedenhoff, Diane Butikofer and Pastor Mike Erickson

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

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

Karen Kohls family wrote a very thoughtful thank you to congregation for the donations from noisy can offerings. They would like to donate the monetary gift \$1,200 back to the church to the paint project.

Kathy sent out the monthly financial statement for review prior to the meeting. Discussed to transfer funds into general fund to not show negative. Kathy will move misc flow thru \$2,615.08 & parsonage fund \$7,008.65 to zero out the balance of general fund. Motion made by Isaiah, and second by Jesse. Motion by Tasha to approve the Treasurer's Report. Isaiah second, motion carried.

Motion by Randy to approve the minutes from Jan 2023. Brant second, motion carried.

Jed reviewed the accounts payable. Jesse motion to approve the payments. Sarah second, motion carried.

Pastor Report: Confirmation Sunday will be on April 23rd with confirming 3 students. Pastor will be taking vacation April 15 & 16. Pastor will have his retreat this weekend and next weekend.

Paint project: Soup cash and carry will be held this Sunday, February 5th.

Looking for someone to serve the brunch for the months March & April.

Insulation bids: Will reach out to Toby to have him get a bid. Will also reach out to Orkin to get an updated bid with new pricing for 2023.

February 8th at 5:30 will meet at the church with Riehle Painting to review paint color schemes for the painting project. Will have council member present

Committee chairs: Parish Ed Tasha, Membership Isaiah, Property Management Randy, Auditing Kyle, Worship Diane, Memorial Jesse, Shechem rep Jesse.

Council meetings will continue to be held on 1st Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Shechem meeting February 19th at Trinity in Hawkeye. We will be looking for a new youth group committee sponsor. Deb will be stepping down as her daughter is graduating. Please reach out to the office if interested.

Ash Wednesday Worship: Council members will be serving Potato bar and bars at 5:30 p.m. prior to the service at 6:30 p.m. on February 22nd.

Candle replacement: Discussed options with changing the styles of candles in sanctuary as the current ones have left a lot of reminisce behind. Would like to come up with a solution before painting is done.

Lenten services: WELCA will have a meal before our Wednesday Service on March 29th.

Luther League drive-thru Meatball Dinner will be held on Sun, Feb. 12th from 10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. until sold out. Free will offering to go toward youth activities. Serving: Spaghetti with homemade meatballs, garlic bread, green beans, and brownies.

Motion made by Isaiah to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Jesse second, motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

West Clermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting – February 15, 2023

Present: Jed Dean, Brant Schrader, Isaiah Ruckdashel, Kyle Wander, Jesse Bassett, Tasha Massman, Randy Wiedenhoff, Greg Larson, and Pastor Mike Erickson.

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

Bids were discussed from both Toby for \$19,980 & Orkin bid \$24,999. Both agencies have the same warranty. Isaiah made a motion to go with Toby bid of insulation & clean up and second by Jesse. Motion carried. Savings of about \$5,000.

Discussion was brought up on also having the same painting company give us a bid for painting statue on the altar. Randy will work on.

Shechem conference letter was read by Pastor from Pastor Brackett. The Shechem conference has only 8 churches. It is a dissolving conference. Pastor explained the two conferences that we could move to. Shepherd of the Hill consists of churches in the NFV school district that are involved with our youth. The other conference is in the Decorah school district.

Jesse made a motion to move to Shepherd of the Hill Conference, removing our congregation from the Shechem conference. Pastor will draft the letter with our decision to take to Shechem conference meeting held this Sunday. Isaiah second the motion. Motion carried.

Motion made by Tasha to adjourn at 6:08 p.m. Brant second, motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



MARCH, 2023

DATE	READER	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION	BREAD
3/5*	Avery Donnelly	Lainy Donnelly	Linda Hyde	Linda Hyde
3/12	Stacy Cummings	Cece Cummings		
3/19	Kayleen Schrader	Teagan Schrader		
3/26*	Denise Nelson	Taylor Dean	Mark Nelson	Denise Nelson
3/29	Teagan Schrader	Sutton Schrader		

March Ushers: Randy Wiedenhoff, Vernon Oakland, Kyle Wander



Birthdays This Month March

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

03/02 Kohls Karen
03/05 Guyer Rodney
03/10 Johansen Liz
03/12 Johansen Benjamin
03/15 Dinan Colleen
03/19 Cummings Claire
03/28 Nieland Kohle

03/02 O'Dell Ronnie
03/08 Ruckdashel Larissa
03/11 Swenson Carol
03/13 Dirksen Jacob
03/16 Kleppe Olivia
03/22 Howard Trevor
03/29 Rowland Ben



Offerings: January 29th – February 19th, 2023

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Basement Use: \$100.00
 Initial: \$5.00
 Regular: \$1,825.00
Total General Fund: \$1,969.86
 Building/Roof Fund: \$90.00

Attendance: 33

Paint Project: \$10.00
 Loose: \$2.00
 Noisy Can: \$27.86

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Loose: \$8.00
 Regular: \$1,280.00
 Noisy Can: \$31.39
Total General Fund: \$2,539.39
 Building Fund / Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 47

Paint Fund: \$1,200.00
 Initial: \$20.00

Sunday, February 12, 2023

Loose: \$23.00
 Regular: \$750.00
 Paint Project: \$1,000.00
Total General Fund: \$
 Building Fund / Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 52

Noisy Can: \$42.40
 Soup Fundraiser (painting): \$425.00

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Noisy Can: \$40.63
 Regular: \$590.00
Total General Fund: \$663.63
 Building / Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 42

Loose: \$23.00
 Soup/Painting Fund: \$10.00



Amazing Grace Lenten Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Church</u>
Ash Wednesday Feb. 22	David	<i>Each church does their own service</i>
Week 1, March 1	Psalm 51:1 Isaiah of Babylon	Elgin Lutheran Church <i>Refreshments after worship</i>
Week 2, March 8	Isaiah 6:7 The Prodigal Son	Illyria Community Church * <i>Refreshments after worship</i>
Week 3, March 15	Luke 15:32 The Blind Man	East Clermont Lutheran Church Full Meal <i>before</i> worship at 5:30 pm.
Week 4, March 22	John 9:24 Woman at the Well	St. Paul United Methodist Church <i>Refreshments after worship</i>
Week 5, March 29	John 4:13-14 Paul	West Clermont Lutheran Church Full Meal <i>before</i> worship at 5:30pm.
	1 Timothy 1:15	

*All worship services held at 6:30 p.m. EXCEPT Illyria, which will be at 7:00 p.m.



Men's Group will meet Saturday, March 11th @ 8:30am at the church.



Quilters meet on Tuesday's @ 9am.

Noisy Can Offering for 1st Quarter (Jan.-March) will go to the Danice Cummings family for expenses incurred during cancer treatment.



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.



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).



Flat Sheets Needed. The quilters are in need of flat sheets. They can be dropped off during office hours or on Sundays.



Reminder: Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on March 11th before you go to bed.



Congregational Meeting. A motion was made at the Annual Meeting to change the bylaws of our constitution to include voting by electronic means for any meeting at the church, which would allow individuals to vote without being in person, as the constitution currently requires. The second vote on this motion will be **March 19th, 2023**. We will need to have a quorum.



Council has accepted an insulation bid. This project will begin in the next couple of weeks.



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, LaVerne Swenson, Karen Kerner.

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.



*May God's blessing be upon **Asher Jacob Helgerson**, son of John & Danielle Helgerson who was baptized yesterday. Sponsors for Asher are Leah Broman and Cody Boldt.*

March 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month! Take time this month to recognize social workers in your life and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa, we want to give thanks to all our social workers who do such important work every single day. Without you, LSI wouldn't be able to provide the essential services that Iowa families need.

Our social workers provide a variety of services to families in Iowa, such as crisis child care, in-home programs and classes for parents. These services provide families the support and education they need to care for their young children.

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.

March 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story continues...

Social Work is Rewarding Work

A child saying “mom” for the first time at 3 years old, a parent getting a job that brings them joy – these are successes that are important to Mallory Berkenpas, Service Coordinator in LSI’s Early Childhood department in Sioux City.

Mallory has been an employee of LSI for more than a decade, and has held many different roles in supporting children and families. “My heart lies in working with children and families and prevention work, because I’ve seen the value in it. I see how important it is. I wish more people knew and understood and valued the work that is done in the early childhood period because it is so crucial,” said Mallory.

She expressed that one of the most rewarding parts of her job is being able to see, experience and walk this journey alongside these families, who along the way, make these small or big strides – whatever that means for them.

“Maybe the child says ‘mom’ for the first time at 3 years old, which is something that has happened in our program. That’s a big win for this child that didn’t speak from zero to three years old, and did because of the interventions we helped that family find,” said Mallory. “All of those successes are so important to me and also my staff – being able to see them grow, build their skill set and feel good about their work.”

“Social work can be so hard... so I think being able to see those small and big wins along the way is important,” said Mallory.