



West Clermont Lutheran Church

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

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March 2024 Newsletter



From Pastor Mike:

As March begins, we are right in the middle of Lent. Lent is a somber time to consider our sinful selves and to repent. It is a time to look with anticipation on the joys of Easter Morning.

As we get to the second to last Sunday in March, we are at Palm Sunday. It is Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. This heralds Jesus' kingship foretold by prophets of old. We then go to Jesus observing the Passover Feast with the disciples in the upper room. This is where we first hear Jesus' words that we hear every communion Sunday. Then Jesus is betrayed and tried by a court that already knows the verdict. We then move to Good Friday where Jesus dies a horrible death on a cross for our sins. The anguish and despair of Friday turn to joy and exaltation on Sunday morning when it is revealed that He is risen! March will be an emotional roller coaster for the church.

Through all the turmoil and emotion of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter, remember that God loves you. God loves You! No matter what we say, no matter what we think, no matter what we do, God loves each and everyone of us. In the upcoming weeks of the church calendar, Jesus dies on the cross for each and every sin we have ever committed or will ever commit. He dies for the sins of all people! They are all forgiven! It is humbling to think that Jesus did this to save us humans when we have done nothing to deserve it.

If God can forgive our sins because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can surely forgive the little things we do to each other. With thanks to the Lord our God, we can forgive our neighbors, help each other out, take care of each other, and show God's love to the world. God's peace be with you as we journey through Lent into Easter. Amen.



West Clermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes- February 7, 2024

Present: Diane Butikofer, Randy Wiedenhoff, Kyle & Kathy Wander, Kenny Monteith, Brittany Bassett, Tasha Massman, Wendy Steffens, Teagan Schrader, Pastor Mike Erickson

Randy called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Pastor Mike opened with prayer.

Motion made by to Tasha approve the agenda. Kyle second, motion carried.

Annual meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion made by Kenny to approve. Diane second, motion carried.

Treasurer report:

- A. Kathy will create an account specially for SOLAR fund designated for future project. Kathy will pay the yearly contribution to compassion child & EWALU.
- B. We have authorized Randy Wiedenhoff & Diane Butikofer to go to Kerndt Brothers Bank to update the signature cards for paying the bills. Motion made by Brittany. Wendy second, motion carried.
- C. Teagan Schrader made motion to approve the treasurer report. Wendy second, motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Vacation: scheduled for April 12th-14th. Pr. Lori Kleppe will be our supply pastor.

Old Business:

- A. **SOTH Conference Annual Assembly** is February 18th @ 2pm and is being held @ St. John's in Guttenberg. Pastor will attend the assembly and bring back information. Open to any members wanting to attend with Pastor Mike.

New Business:

- A. **Offering Envelopes-** Brainstorming ideas to cut down costs of reordering yearly envelopes. Will table idea for next month.
- B. **Audit Guidelines-** The audit that took place reviewing the yearly statements with Marcia, Denise, and Amy to review with Deb. Deb found a booklet online with guidelines on standards.
- C. **Confirmation Date:** April 7, 2024.
- D. **Confirmation Plan for 2024-'25** Pastor Adam Starrett, Elgin Lutheran approached Pastor Mike about combining our confirmation kids here with West Clermont & East Clermont. Pastor will offer to co teach with our church location for kids to come here at our location after school using our curriculum.
- E. **Committee Chair Assignments-** Council members representing each committee consists of Wendy on Parish Ed, Randy on Property Management, Kyle on Auditing committee, Brittany on Worship, Diane on Memorial, Kenny on Shepherd of Hill Rep, Randy on EWALU.
- F. **Constitutional Revisions**

- a. The Synod would like revisions to our constitution to reflect the 2022 model. Council members will review the proposed changes and form a committee on collaborating our existing constitution and proposed changes from Synod.

Announcements

- A. **Newsletter items** are due by Friday, February 23rd.
- B. **Elaine Noggle** passed away on January 25th.
- C. **Nora Farley** passed away February 1st, 2024. Funeral service will be February 17, 2024.
- D. **“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.
- E. **Copper Creek Service** is Wed., Feb. 14th @ 11am.
- F. **Luther League Spaghetti Dinner** is Sunday, Feb. 18th from 5-7. Eat in or carry out. Freewill.
- G. **Senior Fun Day** is postponed until April.
- H. **Noisy Can 1st Quarter-** to Karen Guyer.
- I. **WELCA’s Homemade Soup Sale** is Sunday, February 25 after worship. Quart and pint size available. A wide variety to choose from.
- J. **Lenten Schedule on separate sheet.**

Motion made by Teagan to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Kenny second, motion carried. We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.



WELCA Board did not meet in February



March, 2024

| DATE | READER | ACOLYTE | COMMUNION | BREAD |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 3/3* | Denise Nelson | Bella Dirksen | Linda Hyde | Linda Hyde |
| 3/10 | Teagan Schrader | Taylor Dean | | |
| 3/17 | Stacy Cummings | Peyton Dean | | |
| 3/20(Lenten Worship) | Arline Davisson | Mark Erickson | | |
| 3/24*(Palm Sunday) | Avery Donnelly | Bella Dirksen | Mark Nelson | Denise Nelson |
| 3/28* (Maundy Thursday) | Rodney Wagner | Peyton Dean | June Swenson | Betty Helgerson |
| 3/31* (Easter) | Kayleen Schrader | Mark Erickson | Marsha Swenson | Marlene Yauslin |

March Ushers: Randy Wiedenhoff, Vernon Oakland, Kyle Wander


**Birthdays
This Month** **March**

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 28, 2024 – February 18, 2024

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Loose: \$1.00
 Noisy Can: \$37.44
Total General Fund: \$588.19

Attendance: 40

Regular: \$545.00
 Copies: \$4.75

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Loose: \$41.00
 Regular: \$1,385.00
Total General Fund: \$1,520.30
 Roof: \$270.00

Attendance: 28

Noisy Can: \$94.30

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Loose: \$41.00
 Noisy Can: \$43.60
Total General Fund: \$3,152.10
 Bldg: \$140.00
 Roof: \$90.00
 Memorial: \$50.00

Attendance: 44

Regular: \$3,015.00
 Initial: \$40.00
 Copies: \$12.50

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Loose: \$78.00
Total General Fund: \$224.80

Attendance: 31

Lent: \$55.00
 Food Pantry: \$91.80

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Loose: \$6.00
Total General Fund: \$586.00
 Roof: \$90.0
 Noisy Can: \$43.45

Attendance: 60

Lenten: \$50.00
 Regular: \$530.00



March 2024, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we are grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!

At LSI, we believe every Iowan deserves the independence they need to thrive. LSI's Host Homes is an innovative way LSI is serving adults with disabilities. Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected mentor. This program is built entirely around an individual's goals and interests, and LSI's extensive matching process ensures the mentor and mentee are a great fit.

Take a moment to read the following story from a Host Homes mentee:

“My journey with LSI's Host Homes started in early 2023. I've known my mentor for a few years while he provided hourly services to me. We learned about Host Homes and thought it would be a good fit for us. I moved into my mentor's home where he helps me maintain a daily routine with schoolwork, household tasks, daily living skills, improving independence, and more.

I attend a college nearby and go to classes a few days a week. I am able to navigate the local bus system to access my community to attend classes and visit friends. My mentor is always available to transport me into the community as needed.

This summer, I went on a trip across the country with one of my classes. While on this trip, I was able to maintain my independence with limited support, but I knew my mentor would be available by phone to assist me with my coping skills and problem solving. This trip was a big success for me knowing I had support only a phone call away.

I like LSI's Host Homes Program because my mentor supports me in the way I want to be supported, assists me with some daily tasks I struggle with, and understands me.”

If you are interested in becoming a Host Homes mentor and helping a fellow Iowan achieve independence, please visit LSIowa.org/HostHomes for more information.

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.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2024



Last year we have seen an increase in all of the events that we hosted from Back to School, the Hog Roast to Christmas for Kids. With that being said, we are asking for everyone's help with all of the projects this year too.

Back to School is going to be here before we know it. (I know... school isn't even done yet and I am already thinking about next school year) We filled 335 backpacks last year and we have depleted our inventory. We are in need of all school supplies. From crayons, pens, markers (fine and regular), highlighters, notebooks, folders, 1 in binders, dry erase markers, glue, scissors, colored pencils, pencils to spiral notebooks (wide and narrow) and loose-leaf paper. Of course, backpacks (Med-XL size) are always needed. This is a huge undertaking. If your church or organization would like to do a school drive for SOTH, that would be very helpful. This is a great time to start looking for deals and collecting. You can drop off your donations anytime between July 15- July 31 at the SOTH office. Other drop off dates by appointment only. Let's invest in our youth by filling those backpacks!

Clothing Center Updates:

We will be accepting spring/summer items starting March 1, 2024! That means no winter items will be accepted until fall. As always, please call to schedule a day to drop off your items. All items must be free from stains, rips/tear and in good working order. Without a scheduled appointment, we may not accept your donation!

The clothing center is open for public shopping Monday-Friday 9am-noon and 1-4. We may have some special sales on Saturdays during the year, so please check our Facebook page regularly.

Most prices are only \$1.00- you can't afford not to stop and shop!

Shepherd Conference News:

ConFest is BACK!

Mark your calendar for April 24th, 2024.

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Postville, Iowa will be hosting. RSVP by April 21st with number of youth/adults attending. Open to confirmation groups/leaders to attend.

Please bring 2 school supplies for Shepherd of the Hills "Back to School" event.

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:

EWALU Yearly Assembly
March 16th- 1 pm-3:00 pm

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



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 Nora (Keune) Farley who passed away on February 1st. Visitation and funeral services were held here on Saturday, February 17th for Nora.



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



Reminder: Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on March 9th before you go to bed.



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



Winter Bingo is Sun., Feb. 25th @ the Opera House. 11am- Food for purchase; baked potato bar, dessert & beverages. Bingo begins @ 1pm. Sponsored by Clermont Community Club.



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



Altar Lilies. If you would like to bring an Easter Lily to be placed on the cross or altar on Easter, please have them at church the week of Easter or by Easter morning. If the lilies are given in memory of someone, please get that information to the church office by March 28th.



Lenten Meal by Youth. The youth will be serving Spaghetti Bakes with sides on Wednesday, Feb. 28th beginning at 5:30pm. Freewill Offering. Lenten worship will follow at 6:30pm.

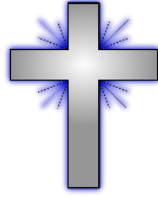


Calmar/Springfield Luther League invites you to **Spring Fever** on Saturday, March 2nd from 1-4pm @ Calmar Lutheran Church. GAMES, CRAFTS, PRIZES! Admission is \$5 per person. Concessions available for purchase. Proceeds to go toward Mission Trip. Fun for the whole family. See flyer.



4-H Omelet Brunch is Sunday, March 10th from 9am-1pm @ the Dance Pavilion @ the fairgrounds in West Union. Serving: made-to-order omelets, all you can eat pancakes, applesauce, and beverage. \$10 per person. Age 5 & younger-free. Silent auction also taking place.





Guided to the Cross Lenten Schedule Sheet

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Theme</u> | <u>Church</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 2, Feb 28 | Guided to Love | West Clermont, Service at 6:30pm. Meal at 5:30pm. |
| Week 3, March 6 | Guided to Peace | Elgin Lutheran, Service at 6:30pm. Dessert after the service. |
| Week 4, March 13 | Guided to Trust | S.t Paul's Methodist, Elgin, Service at 7pm. Dessert after the service. |
| Week 5, March 20 | Guided to Perseverance | West Clermont, Service at 6:30pm. Meal at 5:30pm |
| Good Fri., Mar 29 | Guided to Sacrifice | East Clermont, Service at 6pm. |