



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

May 2025 Newsletter



From Pastor Mike: Ascension Day 2025

As May begins, it still doesn't feel like spring yet. We have been riding a roller coaster of up and down temperatures and alternating between too dry and too wet. Soon, planting will be in full swing. Farmers, please be careful in the important and dangerous work you do. For the rest of us, please be careful on the roads and watch out for the farm equipment.

May is a busy month for school. Kids finish up their work looking forward to the summer. Teachers finish up grading and get ready for the next year. Spring sports wrap up and summer sports start. There is so much work that needs to get done in a short amount of time.

May is also a busy time for the church. Because of a late Easter, in May this year, we are still in the Easter season. Ascension Day is on May 29. Ascension Day Service will be May 29th at 5:30 pm. It is located at the Ceres Church on Hwy 52 between Garnavillo and Guttenberg. If you have not attended, you should because the church is very unique. It is an old church with the highest pulpit I have ever seen. A potluck at St. Peter in Garnavillo follows the service.

Ascension Day is forty days after Easter. On Ascension Day, Jesus ascends into heaven. Although it is tempting for the disciples to just stand there and gaze up at heaven after Jesus has left, they have been told that the Holy Spirit will be upon them to help them in their missionary journeys. We too need to let the Holy Spirit work through us as we journey through our daily lives.

In the midst of all the chaotic things going on in our world, it is important to stop and take a breath once in a while. Stop and remember who created the universe, the earth and all that exists. Stop and remember to thank God for all that we have. Amen.

Pastor Mike

Present: Randy Wiedenhoff, Kathy & Kyle Wander, Brittany Bassett, Rodney Wagner, Kenny Montieth, Diane Butikofer, Lainey Donnelly, Aric Steffens, Pastor Liz Bell and Pastor Mike Erickson.

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

Approve agenda: Motion made by Randy to approve the agenda. Rodney second, motion carried. March minutes read.

March Minutes read: Motion made by Kenny to approve the minutes. Rodney second, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Brittany to approve treasurers report. Kathy second, motion carried.

A. Approve payments.

a. Noisy can has been paid out with a total of 2,111.59.

Synodical Visit from Pr. Liz Bell

A. Welcome

a. Participate in Devotions

b. Introduce ourselves (*name, role*)

B. Check-In: *how are things going? What do you hope we talk about during this meeting?*

C. Review First Call Theological Education program expectations & requirements.

a. Conversation

b. Discuss Congregational/Community Health. *What are areas of energy and excitement and what are areas of that need attention/help?*

c. Discuss and share ideas to help your pastor create their continuing education plan.

D. Identify and discuss other items:

E. Identify any follow-up actions:

Pastor's Report

- Confirmation has finished until September.
- Luther League and confirmation accumulated many items for SOH, Pastor Mike made the delivery 4/1, plans for the Confirmation and Luther League to assist with Toys for Tots at SOH
- Beaulaland has reached out to share they are willing to work with families on cost of camp. They also offered to be a destination for our congregation to have retreats, picnics, etc.
- Insurance has followed back, but had to come back and take some new pictures. Nothing further has been heard at this time.
- Boiler inspector is scheduled to come 4/3.
- The organ has been cleaned and tuned.
- Pastor Mike will be at EWALU on 4/24

Old Business/Committee Reports:

A. **Roof/Solar Panels** – We received some bids for the roof, still waiting on another. The guy from Eagle Point would like to come and talk about solar panels. This will be tabled until our May meeting for additional discussion.

B. **Noisy Can for 2nd Quarter.**

- Suggested: Shepherd of the Hill building maintenance Fund. See Letter and Shepherd of the Hill, director of SOH Heather Hageman has recent expenses for an unexpected medical condition.
Motion made by Randy to split the noisy can between SOH maintenance fund and Heather Hageman. Aric second, motion carried.

C. Constitutional Review. – Tabled at this time as there may be additional suggestions received and we will continue to review.

D. Other - Aric attended EWALU Annual meeting

New Business

A. Bees, Bugs, and Bats! (Oh my!)

Motion made by Brittany to hire pest control and someone to re-caulk some of the windows. Aric second, motion carried.

B. Synod Assembly/Registration. Assembly is June 6-7. Fee is \$130.00 before May 1. Add \$30 after this date.

C. Other.

Announcements & Important Dates

A. Copper Creek Service is Wed., April 9th @ 10:30am.

B. Palm Sunday is April 13. **Maundy Thursday** is April 17 w/service @ 7pm here. **Easter Sunday** is April 20. All Sundays in April will have **Holy Communion** as well as Maundy Thursday.

C. Senior Fun Day is cancelled for the month of April.

D. Baptism for Beckham Helgerson was Saturday, March 29th.

E. Little Flock Women's Spring Gathering @ St. John's Arlington is on Saturday, April 26 beginning @ 9am.

F. Camperships are available to any family wishing to send their youth to a faith-based camp. Applications are in the office.

G. Graduating Seniors have been notified of the Senior Service on May 11th. **Scholarship Applications** have been sent and are due back by May 1st so the Memorial & Scholarship Committee can meet prior to the May Council Meeting.

H. LWR Truck will be in Decorah on Saturday, May 3rd.

I. Other.

Closing Prayer/Adjourn



WELCA Board, April 2, 2025

WELCA Board met on April 2, 2025 @ 1:05. Changed due to storm predicted for Wednesday. Those attending were: Lind Hyde, June Swenson, Deb Guyer, Mae Becker and Marcia Wiedenhoff.

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

Treasurer's Report: Checking balance: \$5,614.64 Savings balance: \$3,229.04 Quilting fund: \$418.05
Motion to approve: June / Mae / Carried

Old Business

1. **Soup Carryout Fundraiser:** 29 quarts, 43 pints and 10 loaves of bread. Total \$617. Precedes to go toward Roof and Solar.

2. **Lent 2025:** Served 37. Took in \$224.

3. **Quilt Sales at Vendor Show:** Sold 23 quilts, 1 baby quilt and 11 cookbooks. Sold 6 after church and special request for 2. Total \$1540 plus \$50.

4. **Spring Rummage Sale:** April 25th 2:00 - 6:00 / April 26th 9:00 - Noon / April 27th - after church June will take care of advertising. Marcia will make posters. No clothing. Marcia will put together a work schedule and get to Circle Presidents before meetings.

5. **Joint Circle Bible Study:** All circles are willing to do joint Bible study starting in May. 1:30 Bible Study and meetings on their own either before or after.

New Business:

1. **Correspondence:** Global Health Ministries. Thank You from ELCA World Hunger
2. **Sell more quilts at Rummage Sale and Vendor Show in June:** Quilters shared their thoughts and unanimously are in favor of this. Mae made a motion to move \$500 into the quilt fund to purchase more batting. Linda / Carried Marcia placed the order.
3. **Little Flock Cluster B Spring Gathering:** April 26 at St John Lutheran Church in Arlington. Theme is “Answering God’s calling -y a testimony from a woman from Palestine”. 9:00 to 9:30 Registration and Refreshments. In-kind offering (bring nonperishable products) for St. John Little Food Pantry. Offering to go to Fayette County Food Shelf. Checks to: Women of the NEIA Synod with Cluster B on the memo line. Lunch cost is \$7.00. RSVP to Sharon Reed 563-920-1310 by April 11 June made a motion to give \$50 for Offering. Linda / Carried
4. **LWR Truck:** May3 Marcia will deliver. Mae made a motion to give \$25 to Olson Explosive for shipping.
5. **SWO Gathering.** June 14 Zion Lutheran in Oelwein.
6. **Synod Assembly:** June, 6.
7. **Stock Emergency Items:** Was asked to supply baskets in restrooms with items for babies and feminine products. Deb Guyer will check into this.

Sunday coffee Schedule: April – Sarah. May – Mary. June – Ruth.

Coffee Hour Area (Yearly): Mary. **Kitchen** (Yearly): Ruth. **Flowers/Plants & Decor** (Yearly): Sarah.

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

Motion to Adjourn: 1:46 Deb / Mae / Carried

Closing: The Lord’s Prayer **Next Meeting:** May 7, 2025 @ 1:00.

Submitted: *Marcia Wiedenhoff*, Board President/Secretary



Worship Assistants- May, 2025

DATE	READER	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION	BREAD
5/4*	Karen Miller	Kylah Massman	Karen Miller	Karen Kohls
5/11	Natalie Bassett	Ryan Dean		
5/18	Kayleen Schrader	Celia Klemp		
5/25*	Layne Kleppe	Lainee Steffens	Linda Hyde	Linda Hyde

May Ushers: Mike Helgerson, Derrick & Layne Kleppe



- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 05/02 Jacobsen Bob | 05/03 Oakland Vernon | 05/04 Turner Ila | 05/05 Follett Karen |
| 05/05 Patterson Victor | 05/05 Wiedenhoff Marcia | 05/08 Guyer Karen | 05/11 Kohls Kenneth |
| 05/11 Shipton John | 05/12 Erickson Mala | 05/15 Kleppe Derrick | 05/23 Nelson Mark |
| 05/26 Larson Greg | 05/26 Siebrecht Lori | 05/28 Klemp Keegan | 05/30 Kerner Steven |
| 05/30 Klemp Celia | | | |



Offerings: March 30, 2025 – April 27, 2025

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Loose: \$76.00

Total General Fund: \$1,182.45

Building / Roof: \$180.00

Attendance: 62

Regular: \$965.00

Noisy Can: \$141.45

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Loose: \$23.00

Regular: \$1,225.00

Total General Fund: \$1,288.43

Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 63

Noisy Can: \$40.43

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

Loose: \$4.00

Regular: \$840.00

Total General Fund: \$896.31

Attendance: 70

Noisy Can: \$52.31

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025

Loose: \$32.00

Total General Fund: \$57.00

Attendance: 18

Lenten: \$25.00

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

Loose: \$275.10

Regular: \$2,125.00

Total General Fund: \$4,127.64

Memorial Fund: \$50.00 - IMO Lois Miller

Roof Fund: \$90.00

Attendance: 108

Noisy Can: \$52.54

Easter: \$1,675.00

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Loose: \$102.00

Regular: \$695.00

Total General Fund: \$820.57

Attendance: 42

Noisy Can: \$23.57



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, Ben Phillips, Meca Loftsgard, Randy Torson.

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.



Happy April-

Spring has finally arrived, bringing longer days, blooming flowers, and a refreshing sense of renewal. As we shake off the last chills of winter, it's the perfect time to embrace fresh opportunities, new beginnings, and the warmth of the season.

As we move through the first quarter of the year, we're excited to share another inspiring story of hope and healing. These monthly stories showcase the resilience and strength of those we serve and demonstrate the real impact of your generosity.

Your support is making a difference in our community—thank you for being part of this journey with us! Please read on to see how your contributions are positively impacting lives.

If you have any questions, please reply to this email or reach out to Deborah Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

We are so grateful for your partnership in sharing our mission!

May 2025 Church Update

LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, People with Disabilities, and Immigrant & Refugee Community Services. We serve individuals of all ages, families with newborns navigating the early stages of parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, as well as children at all stages of development. Our heart beats for the people we serve. We empower families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual.

A Story of Resilience: Aime's Journey from Refugee to Entrepreneur

In 2010, Aime fled the war in Congo, seeking safety for herself and her future. She first found refuge in Tanzania before making her way to the United States, later that year settling in South Dakota. There, she worked with Palance Autism, dedicating herself to helping others. During this time, Aime met her husband, and together they built a family, eventually welcoming five children.

In 2012, Aime and her family moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where she began working with TPI, a wind energy company. For ten years, she juggled the demands of her job while raising her children. However, when TPI closed in 2022, Aime saw the chance to create a new path – one that would allow her to spend more time with her family and pursue a career more aligned with her values.

Determined, Aime enrolled in Lutheran Services in Iowa's childcare program in October 2022. With their support, she launched her own daycare business in 2023. Today, Aime cares for six children in her daycare, providing a safe and nurturing space for them to grow while also staying closely connected to her own family.

Aime's story is one of resilience, growth, and the courage to start over. From fleeing her home to building a business in a new country, she has transformed her challenges into opportunities for herself, her family and her community.



Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2025



Our furnace has been installed along with the beginning part of the central air. Thank goodness because we went with no heat for 11 days and the coldest it got was it was 43 degrees. The unit will be installed in May, right before the heat kicks in. Thank you to all who have sent donations. We have not met our goal as of yet, but with your help I believe we will get there very soon.

Clothing Center Updates:

Remember that we would love to take all of your donations but there are some items that is impossible to keep. Really worn clothing, stained, holes, non-working zippers/snaps and rusty utensils will not be kept. Appointments are still required so I can staff accordingly. Thank you for thinking of us when it comes to donations. These items are greatly needed in our area and bringing it here, they generally stay in the area.

We are in need of bedding sheets (all sizes), bath towels, pots and pans, baking dishes and children's clothing. Thank you all for your continued support and great donations!! We are glad to announce that we have our spring and summer items out in the thrift store. There is a nice selection of short sleeve shirts and shorts. I have been very blessed with volunteers that are helping me with the clothing center. The clothing store is cleaned and organized for your shopping experiences. Again, most items are only \$1.00

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. All churches are encouraged to attend along with Pastors.

Ascension Day Service will be May 29th at 5:30 pm. It is located at the Ceres Church on Hwy 52 between Garnavillo and Guttenberg. If you have not attended, you should because the church is very unique. Potluck at St. Peter in Garnavillo to follow.

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:

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**




Congratulations to our
graduating seniors!


*Reed Cummings
Sarah Dean
Avery Donnelly*


*Happy
Mother's Day*


To all the ladies that
play a special part in
our lives!



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

 **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.

 **To whom it may concern-** baby diapers and feminine hygiene products are available in the restrooms for those times of unexpected need.

 **Highland Lutheran Brunch** is Sunday, May 4th @ the Legion Hall in Elgin from 9am-12:30pm. Serving biscuits and gravy (gluten free available) eggs, sausage, applesauce and beverage. Free will donation. Silent Auction. Dine in or carry out.



Synod Assembly 2025 is Sat., June 7th in Cedar Falls.



Alzheimer's Awareness Program sponsored by the Clermont Library is Wednesday, May 7th @ 6:30pm at the Opera House.



First Aid for Seniors Program sponsored by the Clermont Library is Wednesday, May 14th @ 6:30pm at the Opera House.



Senior Sunday is Sunday, May 11th.



The last day for **Sunday School** is May 11th.



Fun for Seniors Senior Game Day is on May 14th & 28th, from 2-4pm. Come joins us for some snacks and fun! All are welcome!