



West Clermont Lutheran Church

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

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Phone: 563-380-3406

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

May 2024 Newsletter



From Pastor Mike: Ascension and Pentecost 2024

As May begins, it's that time of year again, the rush of planting season. The farmers and agricultural workers are going full speed ahead when the weather allows. There is a great rush to get much work done in a short period of time. For the workers, please be careful in the dangerous and important 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.

May is a busy time for the church, too. At the beginning of May, we are still in the Easter season. Ascension Day is on May 9. Pentecost is on May 19. We end the month with Holy Trinity Sunday on May 26.

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. On May 9, there will be an Ascension Day service at the Pioneer Rock Church outside of Guttenberg at 5:30pm sponsored by Shepherd of the Hills Conference. Vicar Jeremy Wolfe will be presiding over the service, and I will be providing the sermon. Following the service there will be a meal at St Peter Lutheran Church in Garnavillo. There is a flyer posted in the entry way with contact information and other details.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fills the disciples, and they begin to speak in tongues. Although speaking in tongues may be a rare occurrence today, the Holy Spirit does help us to reach out to our neighbors, especially those that are different from us. It helps us to reach out in kindness to all of God's people.

On Trinity Sunday, we celebrate the Holy Trinity. We celebrate one God in three parts: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We remember the Trinity every Sunday in the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed, but this Sunday puts special emphasis on the Trinity.

Although there is a lot going on in the world, it is important to stop and take a breath once in a while. Stop and remember who created all things. Stop and remember who sacrificed it all to save us. Stop and remember to thank God for all that we have. God bless you in the wonderful month ahead. Amen.



West Clermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes- April 3, 2024

Present: Diane Butikofer, Kathy Wander, Tasha Massman, Wendy Steffens, Rodney Wagner, Isaiah Ruckdashel, Pastor Mike Erickson, and LaVerne Swenson, Brittany Bassett.

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

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

March minutes read. Motion made by Isaiah to approve the minutes. Brittany second, motion carried.

Treasurer report: Kathy reviewed balance sheets. Solar fund has a line item now for those funds accumulating Noisy can from first quarter \$641.91 will be going to Karen Guyer. Isaiah made motion to approve the treasurer report. Tasha second, motion carried.

Pastor's Report: The council watched the synod video and provided our thoughts that will be brought back to the synod. Synod presented ideas on benefits to getting more SAM's. Synod authorized lay ministers within our congregation.

Pastor Liz from the synod stopped by this week to discuss with Pastor Mike on the first call education. This program is designed to help support newly ordained Pastors in the first 3 years of his job. Pastor Mike is very involved in these events and continuing education. Will plan to pick a date for Pastor Liz to join at one of our council meetings.

Old Business/Committee Reports:

A. **Offering Envelopes-** Creating an alternative for offering envelopes to generic style envelopes for cost saving measures. Will order these to start January 2025 will have available for members to use and disperse in the church. Motion made by Isaiah to approve to purchase generic envelopes. Brittany second, motion carried.

B. **Constitutional Revisions-** tabling this topic for next month.

C. **175th Parade Entry-**

- a. Pastor Mike will be providing a tractor and trailer for the float.
- b. LaVerne is working on preserving WCLC history in books. Time does not allow for professional product for 175th parade but will use this history in future.

D. **Pictorial update-** reviewed video from vendor who was hired 5 years ago. Pastor Mike will contact the vendor on details and cost, see if they can attend to next council meeting in May.

New Business:

A. **Senior Service** is May 12th. Two seniors: Olivia Kleppe and Kierra Alexander.

- a. **Gabe Hiner** (our musician from Decorah) also graduates. He will be given a quilt.
- b. **WCLC Scholarships** letters have been sent out to the seniors. Deadline for scholarship is May 1st. Committee to review are Aaron Steffens, Wendy Larson and Kathy Wander, and Diane Butikofer.

B. **Additional All Creation Sing Hymnals:** Request for 10 additional hymnals so choir members may have them to take home and practice. Isaiah made motion to purchase using Choir Music Fund. Rodney second, motion carried.

C. Announcements & Important Dates

- A. **Newsletter items** are due by Monday, April 22nd.
- B. **Copper Creek Service** is Wed., March 13th @ 10:30am.
- C. **Noisy Can Designation for 2nd Quarter (April-June)** is Jo Kramer for medical expenses.
- D. **Pr. Mike Vacation:** April 12th-14th. Pr. Lori Kleppe will be our supply pastor for April 14th.
- E. **Senior Fun Day** is April 10th and 24th from 2-4pm.
- F. **Confirmation Date:** April 7, 2024
- G. **Camperships** for 2024 can now be submitted. Review at May 1st meeting.
- H. **Little Flock Spring Women's In-Gathering (SOTH)** is Saturday, April 27.

Closing Prayer/Adjourn

Motion made by Isaiah to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. second, Brittany motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



WELCA Board Meeting Minutes- Sunday-April 7, 2024

WELCA Board met on April 7, 2024 @ 10:30 am due to bad weather for their regular meeting on April 3. Those attending were: Linda Hyde, June Swenson, Deb Guyer and Marcia Wiedenhoff.

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

Treasurer's Report:Checking balance: \$2303.49 Savings balance: \$3,221.00 Quilting fund: \$393.05 Motion to approve: Linda/June/Carried

Old Business:

1. **Little Flock Cluster B Spring Gathering:** April 27 - St. John's Luana. Registration 9:00 - 9:30 (refreshments). Lunch \$5.00 - RSVP by April 17 to Betty Handke (563)539-2947 or email handbe'@neitel.net. Theme is Butterflies with speaker Jim Langhus and the butterfly trail. In-Kind- Donation for Clayton County Food Shelf \$50 and Offering \$50. Deb/June/Carried
2. **SWO 36th Annual Gathering:** June 15 at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waverly. 8:30 - 2:00. Need 1 voting member to attend. Contact Marcia Wiedenhoff for more information on attending.
3. **LWR Truck:** May 4 at 7:30 - 10:00. Marcia will deliver.
4. **Quilt for Shepherd of the Hills 2024 Hog Roast Fundraiser:** Marcia has completed the quilt. Total Cost of quilt \$191.25. Will display it at the Little Flock Cluster B Spring Gathering on April 27 to inspire other churches to participate. Amy Cummings and Marcia will assist Heather with the Silent Auction Fundraiser of the quilts donated.
5. **Clermont 175th / Montauk 150th:** Marcia and Deb Jacobsen will get things together for handouts and prizes for *Spin the Wheel* for 3 hours in the City Park on July 6th. Work schedule will be shared at a later date.

New Business:

1. **Correspondence:** Global Health Ministries, Lutheran World Relief
2. **LWR donations in Fall of 2023:** Clusters Upper Iowa D, Little Flock B and Shechem I along with Trinity Lutheran, Blackhamer Faith, Old West Paint Creek, Old East Paint Creek, Norway Lutheran and St. Peter Lutheran donated: Quilts – 1,805 School Kits – 1,811 Personal Care Kits - 571. Baby Care Kits - 615 Fabric Kits - 53. Blankets – 33
3. **Synod Assembly:** June 1, is a C3-Event at Wartburg. A day log program with workshops, Lunch and worship. \$50 fee. Anyone can attend this year. This is a non-voting year.
4. **Shechem Cluster I Resolved:** Dollars left in account was split between churches. We received \$127.43.
5. **Clock in the music area:** Linda will check with Amy and Tim Cummings to see what the plan is for replacing it.

6. **Fridge in Coffee Area:** The shelf is very unstable when full pitchers are placed on it. Marcia will check with Ralph Hoeck about making more stable and Marcia will check on better placement of the outlet for plugging in the coffee pot.
7. **Gather magazine:** New members joining circle meetings will receive a 1-year subscription. Circle should take care of this and turn in a bill for reimbursement from Deb G.
8. **Meeting at EWALU:** Arline Davison inquired about holding a joint circle meeting at EWALU with a tour of the grounds, Bible study and a meal. She will be asked to bring back idea information. Board is hoping for a date for attending will be after Camp Sessions in the fall.

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

Coffee Hour Area (Yearly): Sarah

Kitchen (Yearly): Mary

Fresh Flowers/plants and Seasonal Decor (Yearly): Ruth

Altar Duties (May, June, July and August): Ruth

Motion to Adjourn: 11:25 June / Deb / Carried **Closing:** The Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: May 1, 2024 @ 1:00

Submitted: Marcia Wiedenhoff, Board President/Secretary



May, 2024

DATE	READER	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION	BREAD
5/5*	Karen Miller	Brailyn Dirksen	Karen Miller	Arline Davisson
5/12	Mark Erickson	Sutton Schrader		
5/19	Sarah Dean	Natalie Bassett		
5/26*	Deb Guyer	Keegan Klemp	June Swenson	Marlene Yauslin

May Ushers: Al Amundson, Roger Berg, Rodney Wagner



05/02 Jacobsen Bob
 05/05 Patterson Victor
 05/11 Kohls Kenneth
 05/15 Kleppe Derrick
 05/26 Larson Greg
 05/30 Kerner Steven

05/03 Oakland Vernon
 05/05 Wiedenhoff Marcia
 05/11 Shipton John
 05/23 Herman Gail
 05/26 Siebrecht Lori
 05/30 Klemp Celia

05/05 Follett Karen
 05/08 Guyer Karen
 05/12 Erickson Mala
 05/23 Nelson Mark
 05/28 Klemp Keegan|



Offerings: March 28, 2024 – April 21, 2024

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024

Loose: \$41.00 Lent: \$3.00

Total General Fund: \$69.00

Roof: \$180.00

Attendance: 19

Easter: \$20.00 Regular: \$5.00

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

Regular: \$745.00

Loose: \$175.00

Total General Fund: \$1,724.48

Attendance: 124

Noisy Can: \$74.48

Easter: \$730.00

Confirmation Sunday, April 7, 2024

Regular: \$645.00

Loose: \$157.02

Total General Fund: \$867.97

Roof: \$90.00

Attendance: 80

Noisy Can: \$62.20

Copies: \$3.75

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Regular: \$2,225.00

Loose: \$58.00

Total General Fund: \$2,321.47

Bldg Fund: Roof: \$90.00; Regular: \$50.00

Attendance: 57

Noisy Can: \$38.47

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Regular: \$1,045.00

Loose: \$16.00

Total General Fund: \$1,101.12

Attendance: 57

Noisy Can: \$40.12

May 2024 – Give a Gift to LSI: Support Mothers across Iowa

Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 12. Did you know LSI brings hope and healing to mothers in each of our service lines? Here are just a few examples:

The Child Care Business Development program in our Immigrant and Refugee Community Services prepares women, often mothers, to run an in-home childcare business. This small business opportunity allows them to provide for their family and ensure their children receive culturally appropriate care.

Many mothers benefit from our Foster Care and Adoption services, whether they be mothers who are blessed with a child through adoption or foster mothers who provide love and guidance to children from all paths of life.

Early Childhood Services prepares mothers-to-be for birth and raising a child. Additionally, home visitation programs help ensure a strong support system for young parents across the state.

These are just three examples of how LSI serves mothers in Iowa. This Mother’s Day, we encourage you to give a gift in honor of your mother or motherly figure to ensure mothers around the state receive the care and support they deserve.

Donate online at lsiowa.org/donate or send a check to Lutheran Services in Iowa, PO Box 848, Waverly, IA 50677-0848.

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.



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, Jennifer Ruckdashel, Karen Kerner, Terry Cummings, Sarah Updegraff-Murray.

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.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2024



We are still working on the SOTH website. Please continue to stay patient with us as we want to make it user friendly for everyone. Jeremy Wolfe has put a lot of effort and time making this for us for our conference to stay connected and informed. I will keep you informed when we will be launching it live.

Our Back to School event will be here before we know it. Please consider donating or using your Thrivent cards to support this project. There is such a big need in the community so all of the extra help is greatly appreciated. The best investment in a child's future is the foundations of education. We will do our best to see that the children have what they need to be successful at school. This starts with school supplies.

Just a reminder: Shepherd of the Hills is a separate entity from the Clayton County Food Shelf. Even though we are in the same building and at times support the same clients and projects, we are separate. If you are sending donations, please send them to the correct addresses below.

Both agencies appreciate your kindness and your support.

Shepherd of the Hills

PO Box 36
St. Olaf, Iowa 52072

Clayton County Food Shelf

PO Box 48
St. Olaf, Iowa 52072

Clothing Center Updates:

We are currently in the spring/summer season of donations. (No winter items accepted) We appreciate all those who have scheduled their donations. This allows us to keep the store clean, safe and inventory rotated. When you call to schedule a donation, it reserves that day for your items to be accepted.

I will be posting on Facebook when I will be open on Saturday's. Please follow us on our Facebook page to stay updated on when we will be open and special sales.

Shepherd Conference News:

Ascension Day Service will be held on May 9th, 2024 @ Ceres Pioneer Rock Church (Hwy 52- between Garnavillo and Guttenberg). Service will start at 5:30pm. You are also invited to a potluck fellowship at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Garnavillo following the service. Please bring a dish to pass and all are welcome.

My apologies to Pastor Susan Friedrich of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Maynard as I missed announcing her anniversary of her Ordination date which was March 9, 2013, Congratulations Pastor Susan!

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Pastor Bruce Hanson who passed away unexpectedly. He was the pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Clayton Center.

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 9th @ 5:30 pm***

***Back to School:
August 7th
(Time to be determined)***

**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**

Mental Health:

A Devotional Study and Conversation

Wednesday, May 15 7:00 p.m.
St. Paul Lutheran, Maynard



As long as humans have existed, there has been mental illness. Each year 20% of all adults live with a mental health issue. In biblical times, mental illness was often misunderstood and thought to be caused by demonic possession. In modern times, we have learned much more about brain chemistry. Although the stigma around mental illnesses has decreased, we still have a long way to go, and our faith communities can help.

We will be using the devotional written by Elise Seyfried, published in the May/June issue of Gather magazine. Bring a Bible if you have one. Resources from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will be available, along with representatives from NAMI Northeast Iowa.

160 6th St N, Maynard IA
Website: stpaulmaynard.com



CONGRATULATIONS
to our graduating seniors:
Kierra Alexander
Olivia Kleppe




Thank you, West Clermont,

for your *faithful partnership & generosity!*

2023: \$1,815.00




 **Noisy Can Offering** for 2nd Quarter (April - June) will go to Jo Kramer from Waucoma, for her ongoing health concerns and cancer treatments. Jo writes a blog about her experiences with her illness.





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





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


 **Pictorial Time!** Our last pictorial was five years ago and a lot has happened since then. As we start preparing for our next pictorial, we are asking you to share any photos of church events with the office. We would like to have a good representation of all the things we do as a congregation from worship to the Fall Dinner, quilting to Luther League.

 **WCLC Camperships** are available for those attending a faith-based summer camp in 2024. Stop in the office or email the church for the application.

 *May God Bless you all for your prayers, your generosity, and your thoughtfulness. I appreciate it all. Thank you again ~ Karen Guyer.*

 **Highland Lutheran's Biscuits & Gravy Brunch** is Sunday, May 5th from 9am-12:30pm @ the Elgin Legion Hall. Serving: biscuits & gravy, eggs, sausage, applesauce, & drink. Gluten free available. Free will donation. Dine in or carry out.

 **Ascension Day Worship** is at Pioneer Rock Church (also know as Ceres Church) between Guttenberg & Garnavillo. Service is Thursday, May 9th, and begins at 5:30pm. Meal and fellowship afterward at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Garnavillo. *Pr. Mike Erickson* will be giving the sermon.

 **Decorah Chorale presents "Glorious Day"** The Decorah Chorale will present a spring concert Sunday, May 5 at 3:00 p.m. in the Decorah High School Auditorium.