

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 22 No. 4 April 2007

Walking in His Footsteps

What would you do if you only had seven days to live? Go on a shopping spree? Go on a cruise? Hibernate? Throw a party? What you chose to do would tell others what you ultimately value in life. This Easter you have an opportunity to revisit what Jesus did his last week and see what it reveals about him.

During Holy Week, Westkirk has a special worship activity for the whole family called **Walking in His Footsteps** where you can experience in a new way Jesus' death and resurrection and the days surrounding these events.

In the Hospitality Room, a multimedia journey will take your family through twelve interactive stations that follow Jesus' last seven days. At a welcome table you will be given a CD player to hear the sounds of the day and listen to narratives of people in the Bible as you walk through twelve stations. At the different stations you may watch a video, do an activity, pray, eat, or interact with others. Step by step the walk is intended to bring you closer to Jesus. Plan to spend about an hour traveling through these stations—

Station 1: Jesus visits his good friends Lazarus, Mary, and Martha.

Station 2: Jesus triumphantly rides into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Station 3: Jesus drives out the money changers in the temple.

Station 4: Jesus teaches in the temple.

Station 5: Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Station 6: Jesus washes the disciples' feet at the Last Supper.

Station 7: Jesus is betrayed by Judas and denied by Peter.

Station 8: Jesus is crucified.

Station 9: Jesus is buried.

Station 10: Jesus is alive!

Station 11: Jesus walks with two followers on the road to Emmaus.

Station 12: Your response to Jesus.

Walking in his Footsteps will be set up Wednesday, April 4 through Monday, April 9 and will be open during regular church hours for all to experience a one-on-one encounter with Jesus. In Matthew 4:19 Jesus said, "*Come, follow me . . .*"

The words of the cantata "*Footprints in the Sand,*" that the choir is singing during Lent, echo this same invitation, "Follow the footsteps that lead to faith and beyond."

May you be filled with awe this Easter as you contemplate the sacrifices Jesus made to be your Savior and may you be filled with hope as you relive the wonder of his resurrection.

. . . Karen Admussen



The Session

Moderator - Michael Mudlaff

Class of 2007

Darrell Aldrich
Bill Raisch
Gary Robinson
Jerry Tuinstra

Class of 2008

George De Graaf
Chuck Heitbrink
Ron Long
Kevin Riggins

Class of 2009

Kevin Heer
Marv Nugteren
Barb Springer
Kirk Yentes

Clerk of Session - Robin Riggins

Treasurer - Chris Brown

Assistant Treasurer - Ryan Glanzer

Commission ChairPersons

Christian Education - Bill Raisch
Evangelism/Fellowship - Van Harden
House and Grounds - Ron Long
Missions - George De Graaf
Stewardship - Gary Robinson
Worship - Chuck Heitbrink

Board of Deacons

Class of 2007

Stacie Bland
Kay Cunitz
Ellen Harrison
Jeannie Havnen
Myra Verros

Class of 2008

Dianne Glanzer
Bette Jones
Mary Millis
Fran Nugteren
Kris Thompson

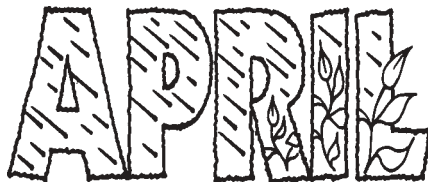
Class of 2009

Marilyn Long
Marillyn McCulloch
John Schwien
Sandy Tuinstra



- 1 Dan Geisle
- 2 Ben Dixon
- 3 *Mallory Wickemeyer
- 7 *Emily Leahy
- 9 Debbie Frondle
- 10 Winnie Adden
- 11 Ellen Harrison
- 12 Arlene Hubbell
- 12 *Elizabeth Leonard
- 12 Sarah Voggesser
- 14 Paul Carbone
- 15 Chris Brown
- 15 Hap Finestead
- 16 *Joshua Duff
- 17 Gary Glanzer
- 18 Lee Turnbull
- 19 Caitlin Miller
- 19 Shirley Sanders
- 19 *Nathan Vis
- 20 Brad Barron
- 21 Ann Bratney
- 22 Elaine Erickson
- 26 Mark Scheve
- 27 Joyce Korocho
- 27 *Hayley Miller
- 30 *Molly Benson
- 30 *Mary Alice Gaumer

*Youth member



- 2 Brad Haley & Somer Gillett
- 8 Mack & Carol Harbour
- 13 Lee & Pat Gorman
- 17 Chad & Amanda Carlson

Condolences . . .

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Larry Kussatz** and the family and friends of Larry's mother, Hazel Kussatz who died February 18 in Waterloo, Iowa.

And condolences to **Ron and Marilyn Long** and family on the loss of Ron's brother, Harry Linn Branscomb, who died March 3 in Des Moines.

And sincere sympathy to **Bill R. Raisch and family** on the death of his brother Donald in Arizona on March 17. Donald also was uncle to **Bill F. Raisch.**

New Address . . .

Mary & Martha Petty

1650 SE Holiday Crest Circle
The Village, #107
Waukee, IA 50263
Phone: 987-8630



The Bulletin Board

Holy Week Events

- April 1 Palm Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Night at the Kirk, 6:30 p.m.
- April 4 No WOW activities
 Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.
- April 5 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.
- April 6 Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.
- April 8 Easter Breakfast, 8:30-9:45 a.m.
 No Sunday School
Walking in His Footsteps display
Easter Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Night at the Kirk

April 1, 6:30 p.m.

Monthly evening
 worship service with
 contemporary music



Dorcas Circle

Thursday, April 12, 1:00 p.m.

Hospitality Room

Program: *Power to the People*

Leader: Gail De Graaf

All women of the church are invited

Mission Sunday **Sunday, April 15**

Come meet some of the missionaries
 Westkirk supports and learn
 more about their important work.

Highlanders Luncheon

Wednesday, April 18, 12:00 Noon

Okoboji Grill

8481 Birchwood Ct., Johnston

Speaker: *Eileen Nielson*

Topic: *The Changing Face of China*

Bagpipers Luncheon **Tuesday, April 24, 1:00 p.m.**

Maxie's West Restaurant

1311 West Grand Avenue

West Des Moines

Reservations: Sally Harrison, 276-0775

Westkirk on Wednesday

No WOW activities on April 4

Regularly scheduled activities
 resume on April 11.



Dorcas Circle

On **Thursday, April 12 at 1 p.m.** the Dorcas Circle will meet in the Hospitality Room for a presentation called **“Power to the People.”** This is the ninth part of a series of faith lessons on the death and resurrection of the Messiah. It focuses on the Jewish setting of Acts 2 and the Pentecost Story. **Gail De Graaf** will lead the lesson.

Hostesses for the day will be **Lillian Nash and Dorothy Olsen.**

Join us for a time of fellowship and Bible study. All women of the church are cordially invited to come and to bring guests.

Highlanders Invite You

The Highlanders will meet at noon **Wednesday, April 18 at the Okoboji Grill** off 86th Street in Johnson.

A program on China will be presented by **Mrs. Eileen Nielson.** China has changed and we need to respect this change. It is a country of surprises, contradictions, a long history, with great beauty and hope.

Come and enjoy good food, fellowship and an interesting program. Everyone is welcome. No reservations are required.

... Jack & Bette Jones, Coordinators

Stewardship Report

A summary of February and year-to-date general fund receipts and expenditures is as follows:

	<u>February only</u>	<u>2007 to date</u>
Receipts	\$21,493.11	\$44,952.86
Expenditures	31,376.20	57,451.57
Shortfall	\$(9,883.09)	\$(12,498.71)

As you recall, we experienced some rough weather during each Sunday in February, including the cancellation of the February 23 service, which was a primary reason for the sizable shortfall. It appears that March receipts are higher than usual to date, possibly indicating some catch-up from February.

The Session would like to thank the congregation for their generosity in giving toward the Deacons fund. The fund took in \$1,275 of donations during February but spent \$1,180 on several urgent needs, leaving a balance of \$372.90 as of the end of February. In order to maintain the usual \$1,500-\$2,000 balance, the Session asks that you prayerfully consider continued giving to the Deacons fund and the worthwhile purpose that it fulfills.

*... In His service,
Chris Brown, Treasurer*

Men's Fraternity Begins

The newly formed men's group meets to discover authentic manhood! Join us on Monday mornings from 6:15 to 7:30 a.m. Meeting place is Stadia Sports Medicine, 6000 University, West Des Moines, Suite 250. **Chad Carlson and Jeff Brady** are hosts. For more information on this new group, e-mail ccarlson@stadiasportsmedicine.com, and check out www.mensfraternity.com.



Holy Week at Westkirk

Westkirk's sanctuary will continue to ring with the wonderful music of the Lenten season. Come, hear the beautiful music of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday Worship, April 1, 10:30 a.m.

The children of Westkirk will begin worship singing and waving palm branches.

Prelude

Holy Is Thy Name

Choral anthem

Lift High You Songs of Praise

Congregation

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Offertory

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Allison Brown, Violin

Sunday Night at the Kirk, April 1, 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7:00 p.m.

Tenebrae Service with Holy Communion

A quiet hour for meditation and reflection on the events of the last time the Disciples supped with Jesus. Communion will be available for those who wish to partake.

Good Friday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.

Experience the Emotions at the Cross

Holy Communion

Choral anthems

Come Walk with Me Trent Vis, Soloist

Holy Love

Christ Is Our Brother

Surely This Was the Son of God

Ryan Glanzer, Chuck Heitbrink, Duet

We Were There

Congregation

Ah, Holy Jesus

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Easter Sunday, April 8

Easter Breakfast, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.

Join with family and friends for a festive Easter breakfast at Westkirk.

Our church chefs are planning a delicious meal which will be served by the Elders.

Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion

Prelude

Majesty Jason Jones, Trumpet

Choral introit

Jubilate with trumpet

Choral anthems

Pathway of Hope

Congregation

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Jesus Shall Reign

Offertory

Jesus Paid It All with trumpet

Postlude

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

with trumpet



Alleluia!
He is alive!

Do You Love to Cook?

The Deacons are looking for volunteers who love to cook! Periodically, we are called upon to provide meals to families in need and we could use more volunteers to have on our list. From a new baby in the family to a medical problem, regardless of the reason, we want to be able to be there.

If your name is already on our list, Thank You! If you are interested in volunteering to be added to the list, please contact

Kris Thompson
Moderator of the Deacons.



Reminder!

Please remember to wear your name tag each Sunday. This not only identifies you as a member of Westkirk to our visitors, but helps those of us who may have a momentary lapse of memory when greeting you at worship.

If your tag is not on the board in the narthex and has been lost, please advise Elaine Hurst so that a new one may be made for you.

New Stephen Minister Training Class Set to Begin

Caring Ministry at Westkirk Presbyterian Church will be expanding soon, as several members are set to begin Stephen Minister training at the end of April. At the completion of their training in September, they will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers. They will then begin providing one-to-one care to individuals experiencing difficulties in life.

“The training is excellent. The skills our Stephen Ministers learn and practice prepare them to provide a very high level of Christian caregiving. The training is intense because it explores some serious life issues, but it is also a growth producing and enjoyable experience,” says Pastor Michael. The 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training is broken down into twenty 2 1/2-hour sessions that will be held on Tuesday evenings here at Westkirk. Among the training topics are:

- Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours
- The Art of Listening
- Distinctively Christian Caring
- Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly
- Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving
- Confidentiality
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief
- Caring for People before, during and after hospitalization

“We are excited to facilitate the training,” says Carolyn Eyerly. “One of the exciting things about being a Stephen Leader is learning right along with the Stephen Ministers. We expect to learn a lot about caregiving, but we know that it will also be a time of personal and spiritual growth for all of us. Our trainees are really in for a neat experience.”

More than a quarter-million people have gone through Stephen Ministry training in more than 7,000 churches worldwide since the ministry began in 1975. We are excited to provide yet another way to help us provide distinctively Christian care to our congregation, as well as people from the community. People whose needs might otherwise slip through the cracks will come face to face with Jesus’ love through their Stephen Minister. Our new class will help KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN to that many more lives.



Please lift up the training class in your prayers over the coming months and watch for regular training class updates in the newsletter and Sunday bulletin. If you would like to consider becoming a Stephen Minister, contact one of our Stephen Leaders for an application and more information. They are: **Karen Breeding, Rick and Carolyn Eyerly, Pastor Michael and Elly Smith.**

For Women Only

Hope Ministries will be hosting an “Annual Hearts for Hope Women’s Tea” on Saturday, May 5 at 11:30 a.m. This will be at the West Des Moines Marriott on Jordan Creek Parkway. It is a free event to benefit the Hope Ministries Family Center. Featured speaker will be **Eva Piper**.

Almost twenty years after Eva Piper’s husband visited the gates of heaven following a serious automobile accident, this school teacher and mother of three started to instruct people of all ages in helping loved ones recover from trauma. Don, a well-known Christian author and speaker, says his wife played the most vital role in supporting the physical and spiritual revival detailed in his best selling book, *90 Minutes in Heaven*. An educator for 32 years, Eva continues to be her husband’s most devoted ally in his ministry of hope and healing. Her active involvement in Don’s vocation dates back to the early ’80s when he began working as a youth minister at Airline Baptist Church in Bossier City, LA. In addition to directly assisting Don with his ministry, she has led children’s choirs and served as church pianist to several congregations. Eva now draws from her own experience regarding Don’s wreck to speak to others about God’s grace and abiding strength. Her message aligns with her husband’s—God has a plan for His children and will provide them with what they need to accomplish His perfect will.

Eva remains a full-time teacher in the Deer Park Independent School District where she serves as department chair for third grade at Deer Park Elementary. During the course of her career, she has amassed a long list of honors, including recognition as Plano Independent School District’s Teacher of the Year in 1995. She has been married to Don for 33 years. Their daughter, Nicole, teaches in a suburb of Birmingham, AL. Twin boys, Chris and Joe, live southeast of Houston, TX, and assist Don in his ministry. In her spare time, Eva enjoys playing piano and traveling. She is also the musical director of a local theater troupe. She has appeared on numerous television shows, including the 700 Club and the Coral Ridge Hour. Eva feels incredibly privileged to share her story with others and looks forward to telling others about God’s continued work in her life.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Hospitality Room. If you have any questions, please see **Julie Norem**, Mission Commission.



BOOK REVIEW

The Fine Art of Friendship

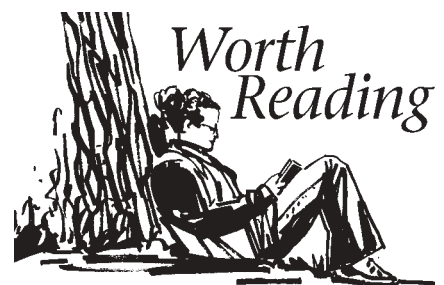
by Ted W. Ingstrom
with Robert C. Larson

Do you have a friend? Many friends? Are you considered a friend by others? A big question is “Do you want to be a friend?”

Most of us are so self absorbed that when talking to friends or acquaintances we are not listening but thinking about what we want to say next. This book spells out 10 ways to develop beautiful and meaningful friendships. In ways that are so simple one wonders, “Why didn’t I think of that?”

Lesson five is especially helpful: “Simply be there to care, whether you know exactly what to do or not.” Learning to put others before yourself and taking the time to really learn about their needs and emphasizing their good points is a very valuable lesson. As the book points out, by giving you receive so much more. Read it and learn how to develop new friendships and enhance the ones you already cherish.

... reviewed by Sally Harrison





Mission Commission News. April 2007

Where does the money go???

Every once in a while, I hear a comment as to “Do we know where our mission monies go?”

The Mission Commission is in charge of answering that question and, therefore, we would be delighted to have you attend the **Mission Sunday Luncheon on April 15 in the Great Hall.** We will

have representatives from 9 of the 14 ministries we support here that day.

Periodically throughout the coming year, we hope (Lord Willing) to have the others that were not able to make it that Sunday and have a “Dessert Night” where you can join the Commission and the representatives and again ask them “What’s Happening in your ministry?”

On Mission Sunday we will hear from **Robert Nordstrom of Overseas Missionary Fellowship**, who will be the speaker at the Morning Worship service.

We also plan to have the following representation here at Westkirk to meet during the Sunday school hour, before and after the Worship service, as well as hearing them during the luncheon.

Ruth Harbor	Hope Ministries	Freedom for Youth	Camp Appanoose
Teen Challenge	Wycliffe Seed	Campus Crusade for Christ	REMM ICM

Join us in an eventful morning and afternoon as we interact with our Mission program representatives.

Opportunities . . . (Praise God)

Hope Ministries.. Julie Norem is asking for trial-size lotions, toothpaste, soaps, shampoos, for the Hope Ministries “We Care Kits.” They will continue to collect these during April.. There will be a container on a table by the Mission Board in the Narthex. Any of you who travel for work or pleasure, I am sure you have seen these available for your use. They evidently have great use in the shelters.

Also, Hope Ministries is sponsoring an “**Annual Hearts for Hope Women’s Tea**” on **Saturday, May 5** at the West Des Moines Marriott. This starts at 11:30 a.m. and is a free event to benefit Hope Ministries Family Center. Julie would like to get enough women together to adopt a table for ten (maybe twenty). **Caitlin Coyner**, morning anchor for KCCI-TV, will be the emcee. See Julie for more details.

Alec Sheppard... We want to thank Alec for his interest in the Homeless Children and in getting us to participate in a clothing drive as well as in gathering items for the “Survival Kits” for Youth Services. The clothing went to Hope Ministries who will dispense them as needed.

We rejoice in the addition of Stuart Smith, who has joined the Mission Commission. Welcome Stu!

The Mission Commission again thanks you for your support and if you have any questions please ask any one of the Commission members:

George & Gail De Graaf, Somer Gillett, Ryan Glanzer, Rus & Julie Norem, Wendy Reed, Jerry & Diane Skinner, Stuart Smith, Alvin & Lois Lundgren Stecker, Larry & Sherie Whitehead.

George De Graaf Chair, Mission Commission

Presenting . . .

John Schwien



We must first get the pronunciation of Schwien as John would have it... “Swayne.” We Germans will have to try to overlook the “Sch.” John is forgiving of mispronunciation, but it would be good if our Westkirk family could get it right most of the time.

John was born in Boone, Iowa, to Clarence and Betty Schwien. John has three siblings; sister Janeen Eastwood resides in Pella, Iowa; brother Rick lives in Idaho and works for the US Forest Service; sister Sherry lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Schwien children were raised attending Baptist churches. Father Clarence was a cabinet maker and home builder until he was injured severely from a fall. When John was 14, his parents purchased a motel in Mason City and it was truly family owned, operated and maintained. John can be thankful for the many skills obtained working side-by-side with his father and mother and also dealing with the public. Ask him about some of the interesting people he met. His parents are now retired and spend winters in Arizona and summers in Pella, which gives the family nice places to visit.

John worked on the high school yearbook production staff as a photographer before graduating from Mason City High in 1983. He then attended North Iowa Community College for two years, receiving an AA in Communications in 1985.

The Des Moines area has been home to John for around ten years. He first worked on the southside for a Staffing company but has been employed with John Deere in Ankeny as a production worker (assembly, welding, paint systems) the last three years. November 1, 2006, John injured his left hand severely in a crushing accident (three fractures) with the outlook for complete recovery in doubt. We, along with John, are praising God for the amazing progress in healing and return of much use of his hand in this short time. He also is grateful to John Deere for providing alternative work assignments which kept him employed and broadened his skills.

John has a great work ethic and keeps busy operating his own Rapid Dry Carpet Cleaning business when not working for John Deere. He has hobbies of snow skiing, sailing, wind surfing and also enjoys fishing and golfing.

Since coming to Des Moines John had been looking for a church with sound teaching and friendly people. During that search he had some interesting experiences he could share. It was interesting to learn that the reason he first visited Westkirk was because he responded to a Westkirk postcard mailing and found what he was searching for! He is excited to be growing in his relationship with Jesus Christ as he is fed from God’s Word through Michael’s sermons, ALPHA and studying for Sunday School lessons he and Eric Wickemeyer teach to Fourth Graders. He has been a member of Westkirk for about two years and started his first term as a Deacon this year. He has the assignment of reorganizing and establishing the new Library as we enlarge our facilities. John attends the Omega housekirk and also enjoys the fellowship and ministry as he participates in the choir.

We have enjoyed getting to know John better and you will, too. He is a friendly man with many interests and skills.

. . . by Carolyn Chenoweth

Brett Strait Family Enjoyed by All

Westkirk was blessed to have special guest speaker Brett Strait, of Navigators, Colorado Springs, and his family with us on March 18. Brett and his wife Micki along with their two children Eliza and Eric spent 10 months in Honduras as missionaries. This was the family that Pastor Michael visited last year during his sabbatical.

For the Sunday school hour, there was a slide presentation on life in Honduras. Each of them shared what their experience in Central America meant to them.

Brett gave the sermon at morning worship, *The Pace of Life*, encouraging us to go at a much slower pace than our usual hectic rate! At the close of worship, daughter Eliza gave a moving performance of liturgical dance she had learned in Honduras.

Brett expressed gratitude for Westkirk's gift of marine radios for use in the remote areas in Honduras. This is the only way for villages to call for help, then a plane is quickly dispatched to give aid.

We are most grateful to have had this dedicated family with us. Please pray for the Straits as they begin a new chapter in their lives with the Navigators ministry.



Thank You Notes . . .

Thank you Pastor Mudlaff for officiating at the funeral for Linn Branscomb. Also a big thanks to all of the Westkirk family who sent cards and flowers, we appreciated those of you who attended. God always surrounds us with his love.

Ron & Marilyn Long

Church Family,

What a lovely way to show your support with such a beautiful basket containing a large hydrangea & green plant & a butterfly on one of the spikes!

Most of all we appreciate what a fine job the Reverend Michael Mudlaff did for the service!

Thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated.

*The Family of Harry Linn Branscomb
(Brother of Ron Long)*

Dear Westkirk Family,

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and support during and after the passing of my mother, Hazel Kussatz. You are wonderful people who give from your hearts in so many thoughtful ways.

A memorial in Mom's name will be established to further the music of Westkirk.

*Many thanks,
Larry Kussatz and Family*

(This also from Larry)

There's music

In a well-lived life,

And melodies remain

Each time a loving memory

Repeats the sweet refrain.

The song that lingers in our hearts

Becomes our legacy...

Its beauty gently echoing

Through all eternity.

Were You Late?

One of God's creatures forgot to set her clock forward and thought it was only 9:30 Sunday morning. When she looked through the tall window she saw that her church was full of worshippers.(?) She thought they wouldn't notice her busy work.

WRONG!

Inside Chuck and Pastor Michael acknowledged her persistence and her competition for their attention. Then they proceeded with their intended message!

... JoAnne Cook, 4-2-06

How Does One Go to Heaven?

You may go to Heaven -

without health,
without wealth,
without fame,
without a great name,
without an education,
without big earnings,
without culture,
without beauty,
without friends.

But remember,
you can't go to Heaven without Christ!

Share the love of Christ with someone today,
and show them the way to heaven!

... submitted by Nyleve Taylor



Teaching 3rd and 4th Graders

Third and fourth grade boys at Westkirk have been focusing on the one most important thing in life: "A growing relationship with Jesus Christ!"

During the Winter Quarter we studied the prophets foretelling Jesus' coming, the Son of God is born, and Jesus growing up. Our Bible stories have focused on Jesus' life on earth for some thirty years. We learned that the Word became flesh, Satan tempts Jesus (and us), and Jesus performed miracles. We studied His teaching in a Synagogue and being rejected in His hometown. We learned the fishermen were astonished by a miraculous catch, and Jesus taught about rewards and loving our enemies.

In the Spring Quarter we are learning about good fruit, Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus and how He tells the parable of the lost son and then washes the Disciples' feet. In April, we will study that Jesus is tried and crucified, and then appears to Mary.

All the boys know how to find pertinent Bible verses and scripture in their Bibles. They especially love to play the Bible Study questions and answers game following their lesson and activity. They do an outstanding job remembering the answers to the questions and continue to expand their knowledge of Biblical facts. **Micah Mudlaff** believes they are all VERY, VERY SMART! Teachers **Darrell** and **Linda Aldrich** agree it's true.

... Darrell and Linda Aldrich



Pictured L/R: Nathan Hoepker, Ryan Hansen, Nathan Vis, and Micah Mudlaff.

Not pictured: Eli Norem

New Life Heads to New York City!!!

Dear Westkirk Family,

It has been an exciting month at **New Life**. We have been invited to join my hometown church, Orchard Hill Reformed Church in Cedar Falls, on their trip to New York City this summer. Nearly 500 high school students from all over Iowa attend this trip every year and it's always an exciting, spirit-filled experience. Our senior high youth will have the opportunity to work in soup kitchens and homeless shelters, as well as dig deep into God's word and learn more about what it means to be a follower of Christ. The youth will also have time to visit many of the tourist locations that New York has to offer.

Please pray for our group as we prepare for our summer trip. Pray that God uses this trip to draw young people to Him. Also pray for us as we prepare for the trip; much work will have to be completed to make this trip possible. Our youth will be writing letters of support and conducting fundraisers in order to help raise the funding they need to be able to attend. Please pray that these efforts will be fruitful.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve



Children's Ministry Update

Third & Fourth Grade Boys' Class-see article by Linda & Darrell Aldrich

Blast Lock In: On Friday March 9-10, a group of eleven fifth-eighth graders joined the youth group for a lock-in at Sports Plex West. They spent the night watching movies, playing ping-pong, soccer, basketball, board games, rock climbing, snacking, and bouncing around on rubber balls with handles! Not much sleeping occurred, but the four boys and seven girls were able to use their athletic talents and get to know each other better.

Palm Sunday: Sunday, April 1 the children will be waving palm branches, singing and playing instruments to celebrate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. Please have the children meet in the Narthex at 10:00 a.m. to practice before the worship service.

Easter: There will be no Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday, but we encourage you to have breakfast at church and take your children through *Walking In His Footsteps* which will be set up in the Hospitality Room. During the regular worship service there will be Kid's Own Worship for children ages 3-12.

Children's Worship Sunday: Mother's Day, May 13, will also be Children's Worship Sunday. The children will help lead worship by participating in the various aspects of worship, such as greeting, ushering, serving as acolytes, singing, reading scripture, etc. During Kid's Own Worship, the children will be signing up for different tasks and learning the various parts of our worship service.

Vacation Bible School: Blast Off for SonForce Kids! This year we are going to have an out-of-this-world adventure. The children will be special agents on a mission for God. They will be challenged to Trust in God's Plans, Unite with God's People, Train for God's Service, Follow in God's Path, and Lead others to God's Promises. Be sure to mark your calendars for June 25-June 29 so that you don't miss this exciting adventure.

Summer Camp: It's not too early to start thinking about summer camp. Twin Lakes Christian Center in Manson, Iowa has a three-day Explorer's camp for those in second and third grade July 1-3, followed by family camp July 4-8. Summer Adventure Camp for children going into fourth through sixth grades is the week of July 8-13. The week of July 15-20 is Challenge Camp for those in sixth through eighth grades. For more information and registration, go to www.twinlakescc.com.

. . . Karen Admussen, Director of Children's Ministry



Vacation Bible School Volunteers

Dates June 25-June 29 Time 6:15-8:15 p.m.

I would like to help in one or more of the following areas (please circle):

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Decorating | Prayer support |
| Publicity | Missions project |
| Bible-teaching | Crafts |
| Group Guide | Recreation games |
| Music | Skits |
| Snacks | Nursery |
| Follow-up | Youth helper |

Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (evening) _____

E-mail _____

If you have any questions about Vacation Bible School or your involvement in it, please call

Karen Admussen 253-0330

(name and phone number)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FLYER IN THE OFFERING
PLATE OR TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

The Shepherd

Communication Organ of
Westkirk Presbyterian Church
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