

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 22 No. 7 July 2007

Why Bother With Creeds or Confessions?

Today, we tend to see ancient creeds and confessions as outdated and irrelevant - vestiges of a time past where religion was stoic and stale. Surely no-one still pays any attention to these artifacts of religious antiquity, do they? Well, in keeping with our desire to craft Sunday Night at the Kirk (our monthly Sunday evening worship service), firmly within the tradition of Westkirk Presbyterian Church, our new sermon series on Sunday evenings seeks to explore the question, 'Why bother with the Apostle's Creed?' We had a good start on Sunday, June 10, and on July 8, we will continue to explore, phrase by phrase, those important words that some of us memorized years ago. The Apostle's Creed is the oldest and most significant of the great creeds of our faith tradition – accepted by Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox traditions even today. The ancient creeds of the Church were originally written to bring conformity and unity to the teaching of the Church leaders in order to ensure that everyone was on the same page, as teachers and evangelists spread throughout the known world in an age when instant communication was not even a remote dream.

But still, why bother with it? I think there are two good answers to that question. First, the Apostle's Creed gives us a succinct and refined survey of Christian doctrine. It starts with creation and it ends with eternal life. It isn't comprehensive – in other words, it doesn't talk about everything, but it covers the important things – the basics, if you will. Second, the Apostle's Creed challenges skepticism in our world. Today, relativism is the way of thinking and choice is our highest value. People today are not confident that we really can be certain about anything, while at the same time, being encouraged to do whatever feels right to them. We are a 'me-centered' culture today. And yet flying in the face of that skepticism about truth is the Apostle's Creed, which undefiled, still says, 'I believe.' Of course, the Bible remains our ultimate source of authority. We only believe in the creeds and confessions we affirm because we think they reflect what God says in Scripture. Creeds, in general, are not perfect or infallible. But this one has stood the test of time.

I recently read, "The Apostle's Creed is like a large map. It gives you a big picture of what Christians believe. We believe more than what the Creed says, but we don't believe any less." Here at Westkirk Presbyterian Church, there is no doubt that we are a traditional congregation. But, have you given any thought or consideration to some of the foundations of our tradition? Take a look at the Apostle's Creed, the Westminster Confession of Faith or some of the other great creeds and confessions of Christianity. You may be surprised! Wanting to brush up? Join us at Sunday Night at the Kirk and plan to join the Alpha Course in September.

Pastor Michael



*^{ESV} Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
Apostle's Creed – I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the creator of heaven and earth.*



Westkirk
Presbyterian
Church

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

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

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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 Larry Kussatz
- 2 Barbara Asman
- 4 George Falk
- 4 Aaron Pieper
- 7 *Lindsey Duff
- 9 Chris Vogesser
- 10 Clarence Adden
- 10 Mildred Stoddard
- 11 *Molly Brown
- 11 *Monica Brown
- 11 Nylene Dory
- 11 Wiggs Lyman
- 13 *Olivia Eyerly
- 14 Jan deRegnier
- 16 Jeff Brady
- 16 Florence Mills
- 18 Lana Ohlsen
- 19 *Sarah Brady
- 20 Harriet Crouch
- 20 Michael Mudlaff
- 20 Steve Randall
- 21 Erin Boresi
- 21 Doug Kanis
- 21 Kirk Yentes
- 24 Lynda Brown
- 24 Marilyn Long
- 24 Sarah McCargar
- 24 Robin Riggins
- 25 Heather Sonnichsen
- 26 Stuart Smith
- 28 Sandra Carson
- 28 Mary King

*Youth Member



- 7 George & Gail DeGraaf
- 7 Kevin & Rachel Heer
- 13 Ken & Ann Bratney
- 14 Ken & Diane Leonard
- 14 Eric & Melissa Wickemeyer
- 15 Rus & Julie Norem
- 16 Sean & Kelli Glanzer
- 21 Fergus & Nyleve Taylor
- 23 Eric & Heather Schulz

Congratulations . . .

Our best wishes to **Ashlee (Obrecht) and Adam Wilson** who were married at Westkirk on June 16. They will make their home in Des Moines.

And special wishes to **Ann (Harrison) and Chris Hilton** who were united in marriage on June 30. Pastor Michael presided at the Westkirk ceremony. The couple will reside in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Fly Your Flag on July 4!

Show your love for our great country by proudly displaying the American flag on the 4th of July. And, thank God we are privileged to live in a free nation. We are so blessed—let us never forget our responsibility to keep our country strong and free. Continue to pray for our troops abroad and for a lasting world peace.



The Bulletin Board

Missionaries Visit

The Jonathan Schuster Family
Sunday, July 8

For luncheon, sign up in Hospitality Room

Please see article on Mission page



**Sunday Night
at the Kirk**
July 8, 6:30 p.m.

Monthly evening
worship service with
contemporary music

Summer Choir

Rehearse after worship, July 15
Sing at worship service, July 22

*All singers are welcome and encouraged
to be part of this summer music ministry.*

Summer Outdoor Movie

Friday, July 20, 8:30 p.m.
Westkirk West Lawn

The Sandlot (PG)

Bring lawn chairs & portable radio

Bagpipers Luncheon

(55+ Singles)
Tuesday, July 24, 1:00 p.m.

Skip's Restaurant
4000 Fluer Dr., Des Moines

Reservations: Sally Harrison, 276-0775

Doug & Jess Kanis Appreciation Luncheon

Sunday, July 29
Westkirk Great Hall
Immediately following worship

Please sign up in the Hospitality Room



Kanis Appreciation Luncheon

Mark your calendar today to reserve **Sunday, July 29** for a special luncheon following worship. We will have the opportunity to express our appreciation to **Doug and Jessemynn Kanis** for their dedicated leadership in Youth Ministry.

Doug and Jesse became our Youth Coordinators in August 2003 and served in that capacity until Jess was named Director of Youth Ministry on January 3, 2005. Doug continued as Youth Coordinator. They led the trip to Juarez, Mexico that summer.

In September 2006, they became Youth Coordinators for the high school age group only and continued to serve until early 2007 when they and son Zeb moved to Pella. Dr. Doug is practicing medicine there.



Doug and Jess, we are truly grateful for your leadership for our young people during your years in Des Moines. Our sincere thanks to both of you.

The Apostle's Creed

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
Lord:*

*Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.*

He descended into hell.

*The third day He arose again from the
dead.*

*He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty,
whence He shall come to judge the
living and the dead.*

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

*the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.*

Amen.

Healthy Living

New Light, the depression/mental health support group, will begin in September with a kick-off presentation by one or two of the clinicians from the Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Clinic, here in Des Moines. This group will meet on Tuesday evenings (opposite Stephen Ministry night), and will begin with an alternating Tuesday schedule of a presentation one evening and a support group the other.

Donna Halfhill, the founder/facilitator of the group that meets at Lutheran Church of Hope will facilitate our group until we identify and train a facilitator of our own. Please be in prayer about who God might have lead and participate.

First Outdoor Movie Night a Success

Our first outdoor movie night of the summer was a huge success!! Nearly 55 people, the majority of whom were first-time visitors to our church, gathered on our church lawn for fellowship, popcorn, and a movie under the stars. We'd like to thank all who joined us for this event!!

We'd also like to thank all the members of the Evangelism and Fellowship Commission who worked to make this first movie night a successful outreach event.

Please consider inviting a friend and joining us for our next movie night on July 20. We hope to see you there!!

Summer Outdoor Movie Series Schedule Night at the Museum

June 15 at 8:30 p.m.

The Sandlot

July 20 at 8:30 p.m.

The Three Amigos

August 17 at 8:30 p.m.

Facing the Giants

September 14 at 8:30 p.m.

Stewardship Report

Here is the financial report for May.

Receipts	\$ 28,475.88
Expenditures	\$ 30,463.11
Shortfall	\$ (1,987.23)

Year to date through May, our expenditures continue to run under budget, but so do our receipts.

The Session and the Missions Commission would like to send out a big "thank you" for the special communion offering taken in June. \$849.00 was collected to benefit special missions projects.

I am also pleased to report that through your generous giving the Deacons Fund currently has a balance of \$1,096.49

... Chris Brown, Treasurer

Growth Project Updates

Due to a couple of delays in the planning and bidding process of our Growth Initiative Projects, it will be necessary to reschedule the congregational meeting from Sunday, July 1 to a later date to be determined by the Session. At that time, the Session will present its recommendations for the final plans of the three-phase project: the building addition, the expanded parking lot, and the remodeling of the balcony for additional sanctuary seating.

They will also have a financing/fund raising proposal to discuss and approve. Watch the church bulletin for the date of this meeting.

Please plan to come and learn about the projects up close and ask questions of our staff team, Nehemiah 3 (Building) Committee, Architect, and the Session. There will be a luncheon prior to the official congregational meeting.

This is *your* church and *your* project – please plan to come!



Alvin Stecker addresses Westkirk members and friends at a Growth Project Informational meeting, where attendees posed questions and gave suggestions.



Please Keep This in Mind

Just a reminder that food and beverages *should not* be brought into the sanctuary. Please do your part to help keep our beautiful church clean and inviting.



The Schusters are coming!!

Jonathan Schuster and his family working with Greater Europe Mission will be here on Sunday,

July 8. Sign up for the luncheon and hear about the work in Ireland. You can learn from them as to how they fit in with the lifestyles and communities where they serve. If you have been wondering why in the world do we have missionaries in Ireland, you can ask them...If you want to know what "Church Planting" is, you can ask them...What is a day like in the lives of the Schuster family... Ask them! Join us on Sunday, July 8. Sign up at the table in the hospitality room.



Mission Projects. . .

If you want to see firsthand what missionaries are doing, you might consider visiting them on the mission field. The Mission Commission will consider sponsoring a trip to Monterey, Mexico next year. Greg and Cathy Huffer and family are with Back2Back ministries in Monterey, Mexico and would be able to share what they are doing there as well as show you how you can become involved. Talk to any of the Commission members if this is something that might be of interest to you.

Olivet Baptist Church sponsors a mission work project in Haiti. If that is of interest, we would like to also hear from you. They visit there at least once a year and have been building a library and digging a well. They would like to involve our church.

Mission Updates. . .

The Mission Commission received a thank you from each of the out-of-town ministries (Navigators, REMM, GEM Ireland, Wycliffe) that we sent a special donation of \$250.00 to cover the costs of travel for Mission Sunday and special speaking engagements. They were very grateful to be asked and were especially thankful for the gift. It helped out with Brian and Heather Hanneman as they had car problems going back and this helped them financially.

Thank You for your part in supporting all of these ministries. Should you have any questions regarding the Missions that we support, please see any one of the Mission Commission. They are George & Gail De Graaf, Somer Gillett, Ryan Glanzer, Rus & Julie Norem, Wendy Reed, Jerry & Diane Skinner, Stuart Smith, Alvin & Lois Lundgren Stecker, and Larry & Sherie Whitehead.

George De Graaf Chair, Mission Commission

New Members Received

On Sunday, June 3 and June 10, the following friends were received into membership at Westkirk. Please be sure to greet them and welcome them to the church family. You will find them warm, interesting folks.



Melissa Wickemeyer
3208 74th St.
Urbandale, IA 50322
Phone: 727-9229



John & Regi Donaldson
4047 42nd St.
Des Moines, IA 50310
Phone: 276-6263



Lenora Chamberlain
P.O. Box 71201
Clive, IA 50325
Phone: 515/491-0536



Joe Daugherty
797 SE Willow Brook Dr.
Waukee, IA 50263
Phone: 202-0169



Jorge & Jennie Meza
2608 Camelot
Urbandale, IA 50322
Phone: 681-5852



Kurt & Gloria Huyser
1433 56th St.
Des Moines, IA 50311
Phone: 284-7443

Sarah McCargar
15412 Hammontree Dr.
Urbandale, IA 50323
Phone: 515/249-1461

Considering Westkirk Membership?

If so, the next New Member Class begins **Sunday, July 1 at 9:00 a.m.** You need not have already decided to join the church in order to attend the class. This is an informational class that is also the first pre-requisite for membership. Those who wish to attend this class may sign up for the group in the Hospitality Room.

Thank You Notes . . .

Dear Westkirk Congregants ~

Thank you for the lovely flowers you sent me while I was in Iowa Methodist recently for breast cancer surgery. I also appreciate Pastor Michael coming to pray with James and me. That was very comforting.

I am doing well, in the midst of chemo treatments. God continues to amaze me with his blessings. Thank you for being one of those blessings!

In Christ ~

*Jill Curry, wife of Pastor James Curry
Urban Heights Covenant Church, Urbandale*

*Dear Pastor Mike and
Westkirk Church Family,*

Thank you for all that you did for our family after the recent death of our Aunt and Sister-in-law, Vivian Spencer. There are no words that truly tell how much it meant to us to just know you are there for us. Thanks again.

Vivian Spencer's Family

Thank you for caring. Thank you so much for the beautiful begonia.

The McMullen Family

Dear Elaine,

Thank you so much for the wonderful food basket sent to my brother-in-law, Joe Parker and his family, in the death of his wife, my sister Mona. We appreciate the care and love shown to all of us in this time of loss. Mona is with her Lord, but we miss her.

Thank you Westkirk people for coming alongside of us in our sorrow and comforting us.

In Christ's love,

George & Gail De Graaf

Thank you to the Highlanders for donating \$50 to Vacation Bible School. The donation will be used to help pay for teaching materials since there is no charge for those who attend VBS. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Karen Admussen



Condolences . . .

We extend sincere sympathy to **Gail De Graaf** and family. Gail's sister, Mona Parker, died in Texas in May. The family traveled south to attend memorial services and interment.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Sybil Whitehead, mother of **Larry Whitehead**. Mrs. Whitehead died in Des Moines on June 23. Funeral service was held on June 26 at the Iconium Methodist Church in Iconium, Iowa.

Church Directories Ready in July

After the reception of new members in June, the church membership list was updated to prepare for the pocket-size Church Membership Directory. At press time it is being printed and will be assembled by volunteers soon. Look for distribution by mid-July.



Westkirk Welcomes Hunsbergers

On Father's Day, June 17, our guest pastor was Warren Hunsberger of Teen Challenge of the Midlands. Van Harden introduced him and conducted an "interview" about the family move to Florida in the near future. Pastor Warren will be accepting a larger assignment with Teen Challenge. He assured us that he would be looking forward to being invited back to Westkirk next Father's Day!

Children's Ministry

Sunday School: As God's Agents in Action this summer the children are learning what it means to live out their faith with lessons on families, fighting, honesty, and fear. From Abraham the children heard how they should serve others; from Isaac they learned about being peacemakers. Jacob's lies showed the children that they should be honest, and Gideon made them see that they can trust in God's care. In July the children will continue to hear more Bible stories and applications, as well as hear special visitors, the Schuster family, come talk to the children on July 8 about their experiences as missionaries in Ireland.

Kid's Own Worship: In June the children were digging up facts in the book of Acts, singing worship songs, and memorizing Bible verses with Kidmo's Summer Slam DVD. This month in Summer Slam II, the children will be learning about the Fruit of the Spirit from crazy characters like June Berry and the folks from Not Exactly Pectin Theater.

Summer Camp: The following children will be attending camp this summer, mostly at Twin Lakes Christian Camp in Manson, Iowa. We are thrilled that these children will be immersed in God's Word and worship and fellowship during their time at camp. Take a moment to pray for these children or even send them a note of encouragement via mail or email while they are away at camp.

Iowa Bible Camp (June 24-30): Laura Leonard

Kanakuk (June 25-July 7): Madeline Heer

Explorer's Camp (July 1-3): Ross Wickemeyer

Independence Day Family Camp (July 4-8): Eric, Monica, and Pam Brown

Adventure Camp (July 8-13): Elizabeth Leonard, Eli Norem, Alec Sheppard, Nathan Vis, and Mallory Wickemeyer

Challenge Camp (July 15-20): Will Admussen, Olivia Eyerly, Ashley Norem, Keith Primrose, Cora Springer, and Lindsay Vis

If you missed out on these camps, there is still an opportunity to go to **Labor Day Family Camp** August 31-September 3. Check out the website at www.twinlakescc.com.

SonForce Kids VBS: Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make Vacation Bible School a success! Come hear and see the fruit of your labor on July 1 when the children sing during the worship service.

Karen Admussen, Director of Children's Ministry

Appreciation Breakfast for Christian Education Volunteers

Chuck Heitbrink and Larry Kussatz cooked up a wonderful breakfast and the Elders served the food to the Christian Education volunteers on Sunday, June 3 to thank them for all their hard work during the past year. We appreciated the volunteers' faithfulness in studying God's Word and presenting it in a creative, understandable, and interesting manner throughout the year, as well as their families' sacrifice in giving them time to make this happen.



The Shepherd

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Chuck Heitbrink, Bob Schmadeke
Genevieve Stogdill, Joan Thompson

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Michael Mudlaff - **Pastor**
Steven Randall - **Assistant Pastor**
Elaine Hurst - **Administrative Assistant**
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Karen Breeding, Carolyn Eyerly, Rick Eyerly,
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