

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 22 No. 9 September 2007

Harvest Time

Most of us reading this newsletter are not thinking Fall. It's still plenty warm outside, the corn is high, but green, and the Christmas displays are not out at Younkers. But, the State Fair has come and gone, the children are back in school, and football is on TV. Fall is here. Before you know it, those crisp evenings will be upon us, pumpkins will show up at Hy-Vee and we'll be talking about the World Series again.

All of that is to say, 'it's time.' Time to get ready and recommit ourselves to the regular routine. And part of that routine is getting back into the swing of things at Westkirk. For those of us in choir, we are vocalizing and getting back into singing shape. For our children, it's Westkirk on Wednesdays, for me, it's finishing up our series through the book of Acts and looking ahead to Reformation Sunday and Advent. But before we get carried away, let me remind you that as we are starting up new things, or re-starting old things, so is everyone else. And so it's the perfect time to invite someone new to come to church with you. Here's why:

- Our fall direct mailer is about to be delivered to about 10,000 homes around our church neighborhood
- Our children's and youth ministry teams have been working hard to plan an exciting new year
- Alpha is kicking off and there is no better place to introduce someone to Jesus – particularly someone with lots of questions, or someone who doesn't care for 'church.'
- Westkirk on Wednesdays (WOW) is a great evening to not worry about fixing supper and to fellowship and study God's Word. This year we will have two classes for adults – the Pastor's class (finishing our look at Bible Prophecy) and the Truth Project (studying the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview today)
- New House Kirks are forming and old ones are firing back up
- People will be excited to see construction on our property and want to find out what is going on at Westkirk

It's a great time to plug in to all the activities at your church. With all that is going on, why not invite an unchurched friend to join you and discover the warm hospitality, traditional worship and teaching right from the Bible at Westkirk? God can use you in the harvest to bring more of his children into the Kingdom!

Pastor Michael

ESV Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."





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

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 Schvien
Sandy Tuinstra



- 3 Suzette Carter
- 7 Cynthia Fisher
- 7 Jack Jones
- 7 Mary Watkins
- 8 Fergus Taylor
- 9 Erica Jensen
- 10 Diane Leonard
- 10 Melinda Turnbull
- 11 Karen Admussen
- 12 Barbara Robinson
- 13 Chip Brundage
- 13 Ann Harrison Hilton
- 14 *Cameron Barron
- 14 Tony McMullen
- 14 Rowdy Smith
- 15 *Anna Brown
- 15 Ken Leonard
- 15 Greg Schmidt
- 16 Rachel Heer
- 17 Mary Millis
- 17 Janet Phipps
- 18 Jennifer Davidson
- 18 Dianne Glanzer
- 19 Juanita Finestead
- 19 Jerry Tuinstra
- 22 *Alice Rose Pieper
- 24 Jess Kanis
- 24 Lynn Ramsey
- 26 Dan Kinney
- 27 Pam Brown
- 28 Sally Harrison
- 29 Bill Dawdy
- 30 Becky Smith

*Youth Member

- 11 John & Carolyn Chenoweth
- 18 Bill & Marcia Raisch
- 18 Trent & Dawn Vis
- 19 Russ & Ellen Harrison
- 25 Ken & Dottie Phillips
- 29 Doug & Casey Phipps
- 30 Brad & Kelli Miller

WOW resumes

Westkirk on Wednesday family night begins the fall schedule on **September 5 with supper at 5:45 p.m.** Activities for children and adult Bible study follow at 6:30 p.m. Pencil in WOW on your calendar now.

And, be sure to volunteer to help with the suppers. Sign up in the Hospitality Room today. It takes willing hands to make the supper hour happen each week. Don't worry if you haven't helped before. There always will be someone to give directions and get you started. Why not sign up for a night each month. It's fun and a great way to get to know members better.

Westkirk thanks Doug and Jess

On Sunday, July 29, Westkirk thanked Doug and Jess Kanis for their service to the Westkirk Youth. During the Worship service a beautiful picture was presented and a time of fellowship was celebrated immediately following in the Great Hall.





The Bulletin Board

Wednesday, 9/5	WOW (Westkirk on Wednesday family night) begins with supper at 5:45 p.m.
Thursday, 9/6	Highlanders Luncheon at HyVee, West Des Moines, 11:30 a.m.
Sunday, 9/9	<i>New Life Senior High</i> Parents Meeting at Crown Point, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 9/9	Sunday Night at the Kirk , monthly evening worship service with contemporary music, 6:30 p.m.
Monday 9/10	Commissions and Deacons Meeting, Hospitality Room, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 9/12	Alpha begins at Java Joe's, Des Moines, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Thursday, 9/13	Dorcas Circle , Hospitality Room, 1:00 p.m.
Friday, 9/14	Summer Outdoor Movie , " <i>Facing the Giants</i> ," Westkirk west lawn, 8:30 p.m.
Monday, 9/17	Session Meeting , 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 9/18	The Clan (House Kirk) , Hospitality Room, 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, 9/23	Stephen Ministry Commissioning at 10:30 a.m. worship
Tuesday, 9/25	Bagpipers Luncheon, Granite City Food, Clive, 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 9/25	New Light series begins, Hospitality Room, 6:30 p.m.

Choir notes

As *The Shepherd* goes to press, the Westkirk choir is gearing up for the 2007-2008 season. The first rehearsal on August 29 was a time to get caught up on each other's summer activities while munching on tasty snacks and to learn about plans for the coming year. Your requests for another Advent gourmet dinner concert is being considered in the planning. A short rehearsal followed. The full choir will begin being part of Sunday worship September 9.

Director of Music Larry Kussatz is eager to welcome new members. If you would like to share in the Music Ministry, please speak to Larry or any choir member, then plan to come each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. for rehearsals. We still have extra choir robes. And, you can be sure we will find a way to secure more when needed!

Two Adult Classes on Wednesday evenings

In order to provide new opportunities for us to learn and grow in our Christian faith, the Session is pleased to announce that there will be two adult classes on Wednesday evenings beginning this Fall on **September 5**. Pastor Michael will continue to teach "**Pastor's Class**," and focus on more in-depth study of the Bible and theological and doctrinal matters related to our Reformed theology. But, we will also offer another, topical study as an alternative. Our first 'new' class is the very exciting, *The Truth Project*. For more information on these classes, see related articles in this issue..

In January, George and Gail DeGraaf will be hosting "Divorce Proofing Your Marriage" as our second adult, Wednesday evening class. We look forward to seeing you at WOW this fall!



Highlanders resume September 6

The Highlanders group will resume monthly luncheon meetings on **Thursday, September 6, 11:30 a.m. at the HyVee grocery store, 1990 Grand Avenue, West Des Moines.** The easiest way to get there is to take 73rd Street from Hickman to Grand, turn right (west) and follow Grand to 1990. Enter the door under the “FOOD” sign. Please note that we are returning to our original meeting day, the first Thursday of each month. The private dining room will be available at 11:30 a.m. The program will start promptly at 12:15 p.m. and completed by 1:00.

The Deli has a good salad bar with soup and fruit at \$3.99 per pound. There is a nice American and Chinese deli and also pizza by the slice. Chinese soups are available for \$.99 per bowl. The Thursday special is a pork tenderloin sandwich for \$2.99.

The September guest speaker will be **Jerry Van Cleave, Chaplain of the Polk County Jail.** He will tell of his experiences in Prison Ministry. It will be an informative and interesting program. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

... *Bette & Jack Jones, Coordinators*

Dorcas Circle

The Dorcas Circle meets the second Thursday of each month for a faith lesson and dessert. All ladies are welcome to come and bring guests. Our first meeting is **Thursday, September 13 at 1:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room.**

Bette Jones will present a lesson from the Focus on the Family DVD series about Prophets and Kings, titled “Innocent Blood” which talks about the part that Megiddo played in Israel’s history. **Lou Heitbrink and Genevieve Stogdill** will be hostesses.

... *Karen Admusses, Moderator*

Pastor’s Class continues

“Basic Training for Understanding Bible Prophecy”

On **September 5**, Pastor Michael will continue to facilitate, “Basic Training for Understanding Bible Prophecy,” the twelve-part series hosted by Gary DeMar, Christian author, president of American Vision, and editor of *Biblical Worldview* magazine. Together we will continue our look at Jesus’ teaching in the Olivet Discourse as we seek to understand the basics of reading and interpreting the prophetic writing in the Bible. We will begin by refreshing ourselves with part one, “Why should we study Bible prophecy?” and then we will pick up where we left off this past Spring with part 7, “The Olivet Discourse: ‘the Coming of the Son of Man.’”

You are invited!

I’d like to personally extend an invitation for you to participate in our **Alpha ministry** this coming fall. Alpha is our central evangelistic tool here at Westkirk Presbyterian Church, specifically designed for:

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith. Adults of all ages are welcome.

Learning and laughter. It is possible to learn about the Christian faith and to have fun at the same time.

People meeting together. An opportunity to get to know others and to make new friends.

Helping one another. The small groups give you a chance to discuss issues raised during the talks.

Ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is seen as too simple.

Please consider joining us for Alpha this Fall. We’ll be meeting on **Wednesday evenings, starting September 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Java Joe’s Coffee House in downtown Des Moines.** Please contact **Pastor Steve at 515-253-0330** if you have questions or if you would like to register for Alpha.



New members received

On Sunday, August 19, the following friends were received into membership at Westkirk. Please be sure to greet them and make them welcome to our church family. You will find them warm and interesting folks.



Steve Dolezal
811 Burr Oaks Drive,
Unit 608
West Des Moines, Iowa
50266
Phone: 865-6660

Debbie Hoepker
2173 NW 82nd Street
Clive, Iowa 50325
Phone: 254-1058



Why small groups?

God desires us to live in life-changing community where people love each other, hold each other accountable, and discover and apply the truth of God to our lives. Every **House Kirk** at Westkirk has a group facilitator that intentionally shepherds his or her small group toward Christ-likeness. And it's through intentional small groups with intentional leaders that God often works to change the lives of the groups' members. Real life change and spiritual growth happen in the type of Christian community that the members of our House Kirks help to cultivate and share.

If you're interested in finding a House Kirk to join, or maybe even in starting a new group, please contact **Pastor Steve at 515-253-0330** or by email at stevenrandall@westkirk.org



Congregation unanimously approves project!!

On Sunday, August 26 the congregation met to approve and affirm the construction project. Prior to the meeting a list of questions and answers were distributed to the congregation.

Treasurer **Chris Brown** reported that pledges in excess of \$413,000 had been received for project **FINISH!** payable by December 31, 2009.

The following motions were presented and unanimously approved by the congregation.

1. Pay off the existing mortgage of approximately \$140,000.
2. Approve the following financial package from First American Bank:
 - \$900,000 construction loan, bearing interest at prime, replaced with:
 - \$200,000 interest only loan, bearing interest at 7.5%, and retiring by 12/31/09 with 2008 and 2009 pledge funds
 - \$700,000 20-year loan at interest rate to be determined at the end of the construction project.

Thanks to all of the members of the Building Committee, the Session, Pastor Michael, the congregation and to God, the project will be **FINISHED!**



Healthy living

New Light, Westkirk's new ministry for those with experience with depression or other mental health issues begins on **September 25 at 6:30 p.m.** with a kick-off presentation by **Cal Meuzelaar, LISW, Clinic Manager and Matthew Horvath, D.O., Psychiatrist from the Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Clinic**, here in Des Moines. The title will be "**Shining New Light on Depression.**" Please join us—every family has been touched by depression or mental illness!

Then, a support group will be forming and will meet on Tuesday evenings beginning on **October 9**. Invite someone and offer to bring them along. **Donna Halfhill, the founder/facilitator of the H.E.L.P. 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.



It's that time again. . .

Summer is just about over and that means that school has begun and we are getting geared up for all of the fall programs. Included in the Mission brochures that we receive, I see that there are notices for Banquets and Dinners asking us to "Set aside this date" so we may participate. Also in those envelopes we see opportunities where we can use some of those God-given talents that we have been wondering where to apply them. Here are a few that you

might want to write on your calendar or record in your organizer or text phone or wherever you keep all of the information that your brain stored before Whew!

September 13, Thursday

Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse Ministry) will hold an informational workshop at the Des Moines Christian School that evening. If you are interested in this ministry and would like to participate by helping out with the collection and shipments of the shoeboxes, you might want to be at this meeting.

September 22, Saturday

Twin Lakes Christian Center is where the children of our Church go during the summer. If you want to see the facilities and help in closing down some of the areas and set up others for fall and winter activities, this is the time to do it. If interested, contact Julie Norem or George De Graaf.

October 13, Saturday

JAIL Ministries at Polk County Jail. The Mission Commission heard a presentation from Chaplin Jerry Van Cleave during our last Commission meeting. It was very interesting to hear what Jerry is doing at the Polk County Jail and his involvement with the inmates as well as the Correctional Officers. This indeed is a challenge for him and for his staff. If you are interested in hearing about the ministry and like to eat, they are hosting a fundraiser banquet at New Life Church in Pleasant Hill. See George De Graaf for more information and if you would like to go.

November 4, Sunday

ICM (International Cooperating Ministries) is hosting a fundraising dinner at the West Des Moines Sheraton. Marlin Docter, whom many of you know, has invited us to attend. He just needs to know how many. If you recall, Van Harden's Adult Class supported this ministry and provided monies to build a Church in Gundarum, India. The theme for this year is "India, Why Now?" See George De Graaf if interested in attending, they have an interesting program and excellent food.

November 8, Thursday

Ruth Harbor will be hosting a fundraising banquet and has asked us to set aside this date. Mark Mc Dougal has appreciated the support that Westkirk has been providing for Ruth Harbor. They have been a blessing to many pregnant young women finding themselves stranded and lonely. If you would like to be included in this event, please see Diane Skinner or George De Graaf.

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, Cynthia Fisher, 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*

Missionary Jessica Duff robbed

Here is a report from Jessica Duff's mother.

To those that have been in prayer and contact with Jessica . . .

During the current Nigerian translation workshop that Jessica is a part of, the consultant team was robbed on the evening of July 27 at the house where they are staying. Men burst in with guns and told everyone to lie face down on the floor. They hit one man in the head, then a woman. Jessica was given a little kick as she was down. They meant business and wanted everyone to know it!

The robbers demanded laptops, grabbed equipment. Money, credit cards, adaptors, anything of value was quickly taken. Jessica and two other people lost their passports. A total of nine laptops and even the projector were stolen. . . Without equipment, the workshop was in serious jeopardy. However, more importantly, no one was seriously injured, though shaken up a bit, I'm sure.

Through the next week as the people from the area found out, Jessica said it was like a parade coming through. Various people from all over the area brought in their own personal laptops for the team to use. They wanted the work to go on!

. . . Jessica's passport was found! Along with the other passports, other people's credit cards & even the translation work that they had lost. That is amazing and that is God!

Please pray for the team and the 34 mother-tongue translators involved in the workshop as they continue their work. . . .

Deacons appreciate your help

Thank you for your generous response to the Deacons' plea to restock the area food pantry shelves. Bags overflowed with 299 much needed items. There were cash donations amounting to \$490. These gifts will aid many families who desperately need our help and love. The next collection for the food pantry will be in November.

Shepherding Home needed

A sharp eighteen year-old resident of Ruth Harbor will soon give birth to a baby boy. She and her baby are in need of short-term housing. At Ruth Harbor this is commonly referred to as a "Shepherding Home." Shepherding Homes are families or single women who, as a ministry, share a spare room and some of their living space with a young woman in need of transitional housing after completing the Ruth Harbor program. Some of the girls are parenting and others are not.

If you have interest in learning more about helping a current Ruth Harbor resident or receiving information about being a Shepherding Home in the future, please contact Ruth Harbor now.

A separate project for Ruth Harbor is assisting their alumni in finding apartments to rent (primarily in Des Moines). Please let Ruth Harbor know if you are aware of modest rental opportunities. Westkirk Presbyterian Church supports the ministry of Ruth Harbor with prayer and financial assistance.

Ruth Harbor

515-279-4661

rutharbor@rutharbor.org

A warm Westkirk welcome

New members were treated to a luncheon on August 19 after the worship service. The elders served a delicious meal and fellowship was enjoyed by the new members, the elders, deacons and others who serve our church.

Our newest members include Melissa Wickemeyer, John and Regi Donaldson, Lenora Chamberlain, Joe Daughtery, Sarah McCargar, Jorge and Jennie Meza, Kurt and Gloria Huysen, Debbie Hoepker, and Steve Dolezal. Let's all continue to make them feel welcome and part of our church family.

Condolences . . .

We extend our deepest sympathy to Terry and Kris Thompson on the loss of Terry's brother-in-law Dr. Brian Albers, who died July 13 in Tacoma, WA.

Presenting . . .

Chad and Amanda Carlson

Over the river and through the woods...to the Carlson's house... Well, not exactly, but with detailed instructions, it wasn't hard to find their lovely home on a hot summer evening, nestled in a new development way, way out in the country.

Inside were young voices that should have been asleep by now, but life is unpredictable. Chad was reading a book to soothe a quiet little Ava with a fever, while her two-year-old rambunctious twin brother, Ian, was proving he can outrun the roadrunner. A short time later, Amanda, who goes by "Mandy," took the children to bed, said a night-time prayer with them, and then all was quiet. Mandy says the kids never fuss about bed-time.



In the quiet of the evening, Mandy and Chad shared their thoughts on life-so-far, love and faith. Mandy graduated with a degree in geology from Michigan State University. She worked for the Department of Environmental Quality, helping communities protect their ground water. Today, she's a stay-at-home mom who loves to cook, especially making dishes where she can experiment and improvise with spices and flavors. Chad attests he likes everything she makes. Time-permitting, she also enjoys sewing and made the quilt on which the children play. Another favorite past-time is reading Christian fiction, especially Francine Rivers (Mark of the Lion, 3-book series), and Lynn Austin. A history buff, she appreciates the ancient historic perspective.

Chad grew up in South Central Nebraska in a home without strong faith ties. Chad says their twins were the first in his family to be baptized. Chad's journey to faith in Christ began during his medical residency days with a leaning towards reformed churches.

Mandy grew up in Rochester, Michigan in a Unitarian, and more specifically, Universalist, liberal, anti-Christian home. Her journey of faith to Christ began with her grandmother's strong and emphatic belief that God created the universe. She was also influenced by Chad's faith journey; however, Mandy pursued her faith as a personal journey, whether Chad was in her future or not. She examined Christianity with thoughtful exploration and determination through reading, probing, questioning and listening.

The two met at a Chili's Restaurant in Ann Arbor, Michigan where Mandy worked as a waitress while completing her studies at Michigan State, and where Chad arrived from Lansing with other med students during his residency rotation. Chad says he was immediately smitten by her. After dating a few years, they were married in 1999.

They came to Des Moines to set up Chad's Sport Medicine Practice, locating in a mid-sized city positioned between the Nebraska and Michigan families. Chad is a team physician for the Des Moines Menace (Soccer Organization) and treats players with sport-related orthopedic and medical problems, including sprains, concussions and even asthma in his private practice. He has four employees, including two physical therapists, and hopes to add an associate, soon.

(Continued on following page)

Stephen Minister commissioning on Sunday, September 23

On September 23, our congregation will commission our new Stephen Ministers. Throughout history, when God has called people to a special ministry, members of their community have commissioned them for the important new work that they are taking on. Now we all will carry on that biblical tradition by being a part of commissioning those who have responded to God's call to be part of our congregation's Stephen Ministry.



Our Stephen Ministers are completing substantial training to equip them for their task. We now lay hands on them, pray for them, and send them out to minister, asking for God's blessing and the Spirit's wisdom and power.

This commissioning service offers an opportunity to show our support for this ministry. Our Stephen Ministers will be depending on our support in the time ahead as they assume the duties of their ministry. How can we help?

First of all, we can pray for our Stephen Leaders, our Stephen Ministers, and their care receivers. This ministry calls for both time and effort. At times, they may feel tired, discouraged, or convinced that they are not accomplishing anything. The assurances of our prayers and appreciation will help them keep moving forward.

We can also affirm and show our appreciation for this valuable ministry. We can tell them how much their hard work means to us, tell other how much we value our Stephen Ministry, and focus attention on our Stephen Ministers to bless and affirm them in special ways – as we do with our commissioning services.

We can become involved in this ministry in many ways. Some of us may recognize a call to use our special gifts in this ministry and may apply to be a Stephen Minister. Others may accept the care of a Stephen Minister. We can be ministers of referral, watching for people in need and suggest a Stephen Minister's care. We all can give our enthusiastic support by keeping the Stephen Ministry always before us and by praying for and affirming those who have answered God's call to serve in this way.

As we commission our newly trained Stephen Ministers, let us thank God for all that they will bring to this congregation in providing care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.

* * * * *

(Chad and Amanda Carlson continued)

After thoughtful searching and careful consideration, they arrived at Westkirk where Mandy found a friend in Sasha Mudlaff, whose youngest, Isaiah, is similar in age to the twins, and where Chad found a teacher in Pastor Michael to discuss faith issues via e-mail. And we all know that Pastor Michael loves the opportunity to teach and clarify the word of God in the Bible.

Chad has a good ear for music and enjoys the "Big Band" music on the old 78 rpm records. A history buff like Mandy, he enjoys collecting 78 rpm recordings of pre-radio speeches like those made by Nebraskan General John Pershing during the WWI era. Mandy would love to lend her deep voice to a choir, but admits she does not have an ear for music. (Make a joyful noise unto the Lord?).

This young, loving, caring, busy family is growing in faith and in size as a new Carlson is due in the house way, way in the country on January 6! Meet them! Greet them! Catch them if you can!

... by Regi Donaldson



In a recent study, the Barna Research Group revealed a stunning statistic that continues to reverberate throughout the evangelical world. Only 9 percent of professing Christians have a biblical worldview. Because of this, today's believers live very similarly to non-believers. A personal sense of significance is rarely experienced, we spend our money and time on things that fail to satisfy, and we begin to wonder what life's ultimate purpose really is. We are, in short, losing our bearings as a people and a nation.

To counter this slide within the body of Christ, Focus on the Family launched one of the most ambitious and powerful projects in the history of their ministry—*The Truth Project*. *The Truth Project* is a DVD-based curriculum comprised of 12 one-hour lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett. This home study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life.

And now, *The Truth Project* is coming to Westkirk Presbyterian Church! This study represents the possibility for exponential change within the body of Christ, as thousands of Christians around the United States are transformed by the Holy Spirit through this curriculum. As it has been throughout history, God continues to call ordinary people to make an eternal difference in our world. Join **Kevin Heer at 6:30 at Westkirk on Wednesdays (WOW)** as we explore *The Truth Project*.



Children's ministry

In at least half a dozen places God or Jesus is referred to as the Rock. *He is The Rock* (Deuteronomy 32:4), *the rock of my strength and my refuge* (Psalm 62:7), *the Rock of our salvation* (Psalm 95:1), *the Rock of Israel* (2 Samuel 23:3), *My rock* (Psalm 18:2, 92:15), and *a Spiritual rock* (1 Corinthians 10:4). In Westkirk's Children's Ministry we would like to partner with parents in helping them to build a foundation on the Rock and lead their children to the Rock. Following are activities planned for September that will help families grow closer to God and to others.

Wednesday, September 5: WOW will begin with dinner at 5:45 p.m. and a balloon release at 6:30 p.m.. Everyone will gather outside to release a balloon and see whose balloon will go the farthest. After the balloon launch, infants and toddlers will go to the nursery, children in pre-school through fifth grade will meet in the Great Hall to take a closer look at the Fruit of the Spirit, and sixth through eighth graders will have a BLAST (Believing, Laughing, and Studying the Truth) exploring the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday, September 9: Rock On! Fall Kick-Off for Sunday School. All children are invited to come to the Great Hall from 9:00-10:00 a.m. for games, crafts, snacks, and more to discover how our God rocks. Bring a friend to double the fun!

Monday, September 10: the Christian Education Commission will meet at 7 p.m. in the Hospitality Room. All Christian Education volunteers are encouraged to attend to share input into upcoming events.

Sunday, September 16: Walk with Me is a new Sunday School curriculum from Faith Alive Christian Resources that the children will be using this year. It has four steps: Hello, Know, Grow, and Show. The Hello section is for children and teachers to get to know each other better. The Know step introduces the Bible story or scripture. The Grow step helps children recognize what the Bible story means, and the Show step provides ways for children to act and serve. There are classes for children age 3 through fifth grade.

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

***New Life* senior high ministry**

Summer is coming to a close and we're gearing up for another year. God has provided a number of exciting opportunities for change in the senior high ministry that I'd like to take this time share some of these changes with each of you. This year the senior high program will be **moving to Sunday nights**, and as a result we will also be moving from the Simpson Barn **to Crown Point Community Center in Johnston**. Also, Urban Heights Evangelical Church will be joining us at Crown Point on Sunday evenings throughout the coming school year and our hope is that with our combined efforts we will be better equipped to help our youth have fun and grow in their faith. Please continue to pray for our youth and their families. Pray that ministry would impact them in a powerful way and that those who do not currently attend church would find a church home; if not Westkirk, then some other Bible teaching church in our community.

In order to get better acquainted with the parents and senior high ministry staff at Urban Heights, we have scheduled **a parent meeting for Sunday September 9 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Crown Point**. If you are able, please consider attending this meeting. We will be discussing the curriculum we will be using this year, as well as handing out our 2007 – 2008 *New Life* Student Ministry calendar. This meeting will be an excellent opportunity to get answers to any questions you have, as well as to get informed about the exciting year we have planned for our students. This will also be a great opportunity for those of you who have been thinking about serving as a leader in the senior high ministry to learn more about how you can get involved. Please RSVP by Friday, August 31 by calling the Westkirk Presbyterian Church office at 515-253-0330.

My prayer is that this coming year will be a powerful one in terms of the spiritual growth of our students and my hope is that we can partner together to make that prayer a reality. Thank you for your time and continued support.

To Have a New Life In Christ,

Pastor Steve

Please mark your calendars for theses approaching *New Life* events:

September 9 - Parent & Volunteer Meeting at Crown Point, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

September 16 - Senior High Fall Kick Off at Crown Point, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

* Please check out our Student Ministry website at www.newlifeyouth.org

6th - 8th Graders Have a BLAST!



BLAST enjoyed some end of summer fun with a slip, slide, s'mores, water balloons, root beet floats, games and a bonfire devotion last month

Thank You Notes . . .

Thank You from your Pastor,

While Sasha and I were at the Cedarly Pastor's Retreat in Delafield, Wisconsin this past August, it became very apparent that you, do a great job taking care of me and my family! We are so fortunate and blessed to be counted among you and to receive the love and care that you give. Thank you for the gift of my annual, week-long sabbatical! I hope you sense that it makes a difference in our ministry and how I serve you all.

Thank you to the Session and to all of you who showered me with gifts and cards for my birthday at the end of July! Thank you to the staff (past and present), First Ladies, and Lenora for the great co-birthday party with Pastor Steve!

And thank you for allowing me to partner with you in this great adventure of seeing and helping others become part of the Kingdom of God through the ministry here at Westkirk!

*Serving Christ, Serving You,
Pastor Michael Mudlaff*

Westkirk Presbyterian Church,

I want to thank each member of the Church for their support & prayers during this difficult time with the passing of my husband Don. I want to thank you for the lovely basket arrangement that the church sent. I am taking baby steps each day & some days they are giant ones. Once again thanks for your thoughtfulness.

Judy Harris, sister of Patti Gorman

To our wonderful Westkirk family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful plant you sent to honor our brother-in-law Dr. Brian Albers. Terry's sister Sarah was quite moved that our church family would remember her husband at this very difficult time.

Terry & I are very blessed to be a part of this wonderful extended family!

*Terry & Kris Thompson
Sarah Albers and the family of Dr. Brian Albers*



I really appreciated all of the cards, visits and prayers offered on my behalf during my lung surgery this spring and your expressions of concern since. The doctors have assured us that the surgery was a success, and no trace of the cancer remains, The Lord be praised! Again thank you to the people of Westkirk.

*Love to all,
Marvin Nugteren*

Dear Westkirk,

Thank you for paying for part of camp. I had a lot of fun. My relationship with God grew so much when I was there. I really liked paint balling.

*Thank you so much,
Will Admussen*

Dear Westkirk,

Thank you for paying most of my fund for church camp. I know that was easy on my parents so that they didn't have to pay the whole fee. I had a lot of fun at camp. While at camp I accepted JESUS as my savior and LORD and if it weren't for you guys I wouldn't have been able to do that. Also I learned that we are evidence of the living God himself. Also we all have a God shaped hole in all of us and we fill that hole with stuff like sports, work, anything that we are trying to fill it with so that we don't feel down, but the only thing that will go in that hole is God himself. Nature is evidence that God was here on Earth at one point and created everything natural.

Camp was a blast! I went swimming every day and every day I would go down the water slide a million times before I got tired of it. I went on the easiest rock wall and made it to the top. Also I went to the canteen (snack shack) and went to the gift shop one day out of the week.

Two of the nights we played a game called Ducko Commando and Safehouse. They are both played in the pitch darkness of night and are both kind of rough. One of my counselors got knocked over and trampled on by a few kids and one of her ribs is badly bruised. So if you could keep her in prayer that would be nice. Also when Howy (speaker at TLCC) was speaking it would be short and sweet but to the point. Thanks so much for paying part of the fee so that I could go to camp!!!!

*Sincerely,
Ashley Norem*

Thank You Notes . . .

When I was going to Twin Lakes Christian Camp

It all started one morning when I woke up, I had just gotten dressed and my mom said it was time for breakfast and time to pack. My mom said that my friend David and his mom were going to pick me up and take me to camp. I couldn't wait until David got here and we got on the highway!

Camp was so much fun, we stayed in cabin number 4. We unpacked then played a game of golf. Later we had dinner and a campfire. The next day we built towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows and had Chapel. I really liked Chapel. We also played dodgeball, had a water carnival and I even got to ride on the zip line before we had dinner and another campfire. I learned some great songs like I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N and learned about God and Jesus. I can't wait to go again next year!

Ross Wickemeyer

I learned that you have a God shaped hole in you and the more time you take with God the smaller the hole gets. I met a lot of people who taught me a lot about God. One staff member recommended some good books from the Bible. In the round barn every morning we learned a new memory verse. I liked that we got to learn new songs.

Alec Sheppard

Dear Westkirk,

Thank you for helping pay for me to go to TLCC in Manson, IA. While I was there, I went down to the waterfront and swam in their part of the lake, I learned archery, and played carpet ball. We had chapel every day where we learned more about the BIBLE and God's work. Also we learned more about the holy one JESUS!!!

Thank you again,

Eli Norem

If somebody challenges your faith you can know their wrong just by looking at nature. You can respond by looking at the human body. It is so complex it had to be made by God. The human body has five stories of intestine inside a one foot area. It's put together so complex it had to be made by God. The main picture is there are many ways to tell God exists.

Keith Primrose

This year at TLCC (Twin Lakes Christian Center) our theme was follow the evidence. We learned about how Jesus DID walk this earth. Our evidence was things such as records, and most importantly creation itself. As we had learned in chapel and morning praise, evolution couldn't have created such animal as the platypus because it is just parts of different animals thrown together to create a big ugly weird looking thing. It also couldn't create something like the bumble bee because its body is too big for its wings and shouldn't be able to fly at all.

The activities they had for us were amazing! During free time we could swim, go on the torpedo, there were boat rides, the gym, crafts, archery, the zipline, putt putt golf or we could just hang out! Before we went to bed we could also do an activity like play a board game, a camp game we played commander commando where you had to get a wooden duck out of a bucket on one end of the field and put it into a bucket on the other end of the field without getting hit by the spotlight.

Thank you Westkirk for helping the children get to camp this year,

Mallory Wickemeyer

Dear Westkirk Family,

Thank you so much for donating to my camp tuition. Since I have been there I have grown stronger as a Christian. When I was there I learned that God will take you in, even when you have done something very wrong. At TLCC they have a swim area and a . . . waterslide!!! The water slide was so much fun that I probably went on it 30 times!

Thanks again,

Olivia Eyerly

Dear Westkirk,

Thank you for your prayers and financial support of our vacation at Twin Lakes Christian Camp. We really enjoyed swimming, tubing, archery, sunset cruises, the mystery dinner and worship time. We "Followed the Evidence" and learned more about God through the puppet "GJ" (Grape Jelly). We had a great time at Family Camp and would definitely recommend it to other families at Westkirk.

Pam, Monica, and Eric Brown

The Shepherd

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