

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 23 No. 2 February 2008

You've Got the Time

ESV Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10 is such a significant chapter in helping us understand how God reaches down into our very hearts and gives us the wonderful gift of salvation through a relationship with him in his Son, Jesus Christ. But did you know that 3.1 billion people cannot read the Bible because more than 50% of the world's population cannot read? If faith comes from hearing, then the hope we have of reaching these people who are likely to be imprisoned by poverty and illiteracy is with the spoken Word of God. For people who cannot read, audio New Testaments are an answer to their prayers!

So this month, on February 10, Communion Sunday, we will focus our time of worship to God on His Word and our opportunity to participate together as a family of faith in meeting this need. Each family, maybe each person in attendance that morning, will receive a free audio Scripture CD so that we, ourselves can experience the Bible in a new way. Children will receive a free Kidz Bible CD! We will also have the opportunity, through our monthly communion offering, to be a blessing to those who never hear the Gospel. According to the organization, Faith Comes By Hearing, the cost to record one translation of the New Testament is \$25,596. There are 27 books from Matthew to Revelation in the New Testament – this equals \$948 per book, per language. On Sunday the 10th, Westkirk will have the opportunity to help meet the need of making an audio translation of the Bible available to some people group, somewhere in the world, that does not have a version of the Bible available to listen to in their own heart language. Maybe we'll even end up sponsoring an entire book of the Bible!

Imagine the impact here at Westkirk Presbyterian Church, if each of us listened to the Bible for 40 days straight! Would we experience God's peace anew? Would we be challenged to live everyday in obedience to Christ? Would we be transformed by the power of hearing God's Word? Would someone who attends our church come to faith by hearing the Gospel message in a new and fresh way? I will be listening with my copy and I believe that we will be blessed – even as God is blessing others through our giving, by enabling those who will never hear the Gospel unless it comes in audio form, to receive it. You have the time for all kinds of things each and every day. Do you have the time to hear from God in his Word? Let's do it together!

Pastor Michael





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
- Marilyn McCulloch
- John Schvien
- Sandy Tuinstra



- 3 *Alec Sheppard
 - 3 *Jeanelle Welsher
 - 5 Pat Gorman
 - 5 Samona Yentes
 - 6 *Anastasia Admussen
 - 6 Dottie Phillips
 - 7 Donald Dory
 - 11 Lou Heitbrink
 - 12 *Nathanael Mudlaff
 - 13 Vicki Bone
 - 13 Alice Romans
 - 14 Wally Romans
 - 16 Audrene Hansen
 - 22 Mike Dake
 - 22 *Bryce Sonnichsen
 - 25 David Liljedahl
 - 28 Gary Robinson
- *Youth member

Condolences . . .

To **Audrene Hansen and Colleen Obrecht** whose mother, Opal Obrecht, died in Des Moines on January 22. Funeral services were held on January 26 at the Richland Lutheran Church in Thornton, Iowa. Our sincere sympathy to Audrene and Colleen and family.

Easter Comes Early

This year, Easter will be in March--the 23rd. As in the past, we will be requesting your donations of trumpet lilies to adorn the sanctuary. We are counting on you to help have a beautiful display for this Holy Season. Please watch the Sunday bulletins for order forms and announcement of the deadline for placing orders.



- 4 Le & Helen Main
- 19 Kurt & Gloria Huyser
- 22 Ron & Darlene Reighard
- 26 Hap & Juanita Finestead

Baptism at Westkirk

On December 16, 2007, we celebrated the baptism of **Layla Anne Soper**, daughter of Brian James and Amy Anne Soper and sister of Shyanne Marie, Shelby Sierra, and Dylan James Soper. Layla was born June 12, 2007.

Happy Birth Day!

Congratulations to **Chad and Amanda Carlson** on the birth of their son, **Elijah Antony**. Elijah was born on January 16, 2008. He joins his twin siblings, brother Ian and sister Eva.

Congratulations x 2!

To **Luke Harden**, son of **Van and Denise Harden**, on his mid-December graduation from Iowa State University.

And, on Saturday, January 5, Luke and Courtney Keeney were married in Des Moines. Best wishes to **the new Mr. & Mrs. Harden!**

Thank You

Our sincere thanks to **Bill and Wanita Oswalt** for stepping out of retirement to fill in when our regular custodian, Barb McCargar, was on vacation. We really appreciated your help!



The Bulletin Board

February Activities. See related articles in this issue

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| Sunday | 2/3 | Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; Explorers, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
Confirmation parents/students luncheon, noon |
| Monday | 2/4 | Commissions meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday | 2/5 | Women's Bible study, 9:00 a.m., Hospitality Room
Stephen Ministry meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 2/6 | Ash Wednesday worship service with Communion, 7:00 p.m.
No WOW meal or other activities
Choir rehearsal following service |
| Thursday | 2/7 | Highlanders, 11:30 a.m., West Des Moines HyVee
* * * * * |
| Sunday | 2/10 | Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.;
Worship with Holy Communion, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Night at the Kirk, 6:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday | 2/12 | Women's Bible study, 9:00 a.m.
New Light meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 2/13 | WOW, supper at 5:45 p.m.; Bible classes, 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. |
| Thursday | 2/14 | Dorcas Circle, 1:00 p.m., Hospitality Room |
| Friday | 2/15 | Shepherd articles for March due |
| Saturday | 2/16 | Sweetheart Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Great Hall
* * * * * |
| Sunday | 2/17 | Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.: Food Pantry Collection Day |
| Monday | 2/18 | Session, Deacons meetings, 7:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday | 2/19 | Women's Bible study. 9:00 a.m.
The Clan Housekirk meeting, 1:00 p.m., Hospitality Room
Stephen Ministry meeting 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 2/20 | WOW activities start at 5:45 p.m.; Bible classes, 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
* * * * * |
| Sunday | 2/24 | Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:30 p.m.: New members received |
| Tuesday | 2/26 | Women's Bible study, 9:00 a.m.
Bagpiper luncheon, 1:00 p.m., Biaggi's, West Des Moines
New Light meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 2/27 | WOW activities start at 5:45 p.m.; Bible classes, 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. |



Highlanders

Highlanders will meet **Thursday, February 7** at noon at the West Des Moines HyVee store at Grand and Railroad Avenue. The private dining room opens at 11:30 a.m. for your convenience.

The speaker will be **Mikki Stier, Senior Vice-President, External Relations of Broadlawns Medical Center**. She will explain what is going on with the Polk County Hospital and tell us of plans for the future. Everyone is welcome—come and bring a guest.

... *Jack & Bette Jones*

Divorce Proof Your Marriage

Westkirk has two Marriage Classes being held now, one on Wednesday evening and the other on Friday evening. Both are held at the Church at 6:30 p.m. We have 19 couples who have committed themselves to divorce proof their marriages. Westkirk took a stand back in 2004 to join with other churches in the Des Moines area.

We are studying the book, *Six Secrets to a Lasting Love*. Dr. Gary and Barb Rosberg who are with America Family Coaches have formed this venture to help churches combat the rising numbers of divorces even within Christian circles. The study book provides Six Love Characteristics (Forgiving Love, Serving Love, Persevering Love, Guarding Love, Celebrating Love, and Renewing Love) based on the type of Love that God has shown to us in Jesus Christ.

Classes will be held periodically in the future. Join us to Divorce Proof Westkirk Church families.

... *Gail & George De Graaf*

Stephen Ministry News

Westkirk's Stephen Ministry has commissioned five Stephen Ministers and now each of them has had, or is experiencing the joy of reaching out to someone with a desire for one-to-one Christian care. They are Westkirk caregivers, but Christ is the cure-giver for those to whom they reach out.

Stephen Ministry is a transgenerational care giving ministry which began in St. Louis in 1975 and now is in use by many congregations over the entire United States. Westkirk is privileged to be providing these services throughout the church.

Many of you have been participating in some part of the series on Discovering Our Spiritual Gifts. If you find that you would enjoy helping normal people through troubled times in a one-to-one setting, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders or Pastor Michael as we expect to soon be starting a training program for New Stephen Ministers at Westkirk. Tell us of your interest and let us answer your questions. You will be glad you did!

... *Elly Smith, Stephen Leader*

Choir Notes

Now that the choir is back, following a busy Advent schedule, we can look forward to their next special presentation. Along with all the beautiful music planned for the next couple months, there will be a cantata on Palm Sunday, *Once Upon a Tree*. Look for more details in the next *Shepherd*.



Don't Miss Ash Wednesday

You will not want to miss Ash Wednesday at Westkirk this year! Pastor Michael and the Worship Commission are excited to announce that at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6, Alan Bond, from the Chicago branch of Jews for Jesus,** will bring us the *Christ in the Passover* presentation. *Christ in the Passover* shows the link between the ancient Festival of Redemption and Christ as the Lamb of God—our church members will never forget it!

This sermonic demonstration is visual, so the congregation will actually see a table set with traditional Passover items. The missionary uses Scripture as well as the visual items to walk through a Jewish Passover Seder, weaving the story of the Exodus together with the life, death and resurrection of Christ. The words Jesus spoke in the upper room come alive as each Hebraic item is carefully explained.



We will finish this powerful presentation by celebrating communion together. It will be a remarkable Ash Wednesday, so plan to attend and invite family and friends to come along.

Mr. Bond will be happy to discuss the ministry of Jews for Jesus and Jewish evangelism, after the presentation. During the service, there will be a free-will offering for the ministry of Jews for Jesus.

Sweetheart Banquet 2008

Westkirk Presbyterian Church

*Fellowship & Hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

Serving

*Lasagna (Vegetarian Available)
Caesar Salad & Breadsticks*

\$15 Per Person

Please consider joining us **Saturday, February 16** for the first annual Sweetheart Banquet. The senior high and middle school youth groups, here at Westkirk and at Urban Heights Covenant Church, will be working together to make sure that everyone who attends has a memorable night. The youth will be serving dinner, providing child care, and a few of them will even be sharing their musical and artistic talents with you. The youth are currently selling tickets for this event, so if you're interested in joining us, please ask one of them or contact **Pastor Steve, Karen Admussen**, or the church office. Tickets are \$15 per person and all money raised will help pay for our youth to attend camp this summer.

Dorcas Circle

This month's meeting begins a new DVD series titled, *Walk As Jesus Walked; Making Disciples*. On **Thursday, February 14 at 1:00 p.m.** all ladies of the church and their guests are invited to join us in the Hospitality Room. **Gail DeGraaf** will lead us in a faith lesson titled, "Run! The Passion of Elijah." **Fran Nugteren and Carolyn Chenoweth** will be hostesses. . . . *Karen Admussen, Moderator*

Annual Meeting Report

The church Annual Meeting, held January 27, fell after the deadline for the February issue, so it will be reviewed in the next issue of the *Shepherd*. Please watch for a complete report in March.



It's the News!

LOCAL NEWS HEADLINES

Strait Family comes to town

On Sunday January 20, we had the privilege of having Brett and Micki Strait along with their two children, Evan and Eliza, visit us. Brett was here to be Commissioned by Westkirk as a Minister of Evangelism for the work with the Navigators in Colorado Springs. Several of us, including the Mission Commission were able to dine with the them in the Great

Hall of Westkirk that Sunday. Brett will be involved with the EDGE Corp working with administrators in several Universities to train them for service in the Navigators. Here is an excerpt from their latest newsletter on what their children are involved with at school:

Evan will be taking an Industrial Arts class at our neighborhood school (Timberview). He is very excited. He also plans to play basketball for the Timberview Timberwolves starting in February. Eliza is taking 2 classes from a local homeschool coop, Worship Arts and Photography. They will meet on Friday afternoons each week. She is VERY excited.

Keep them in your prayers.

Representative here at Westkirk!!

Westkirk Mission Commission heard about the ministry of TEEN CHALLENGE at their meeting on January 7 at the church. Representative Robert Schmidt, who represents Teen Challenge Community Relations, was here with his wife Judy to make the presentation. (Note: If you missed hearing about the presentation, you can talk to them here at Westkirk on Sunday as they regularly worship with us. They would be happy to bring you up to date on the ministry) Bob suggested that the congregation join the Mission Commission in the near future when he provides a tour of the facility in Colfax, Iowa to check out the new portico renovation. Check with the Mission Commission if interested.

WORLD NEWS UPDATE

Christianity in Turkey

David Eggert who has been in Turkey and France visits the Mission Commission in February. He will provide an update of the TIP Project with which he is involved at Campus Crusade on the ISU Campus. Dave was over in Belgium last April meeting with missionaries there when he heard of an attack on Christians in Turkey. Saddened, but not surprised, he felt a deep loss for the families and children involved. The Mission Commission also looks forward to hearing about the conference held in Atlanta over the New Year Holiday.

WESTKIRK UPDATE

Plans for Mission Sunday

Plans are being tossed around for a Mission Sunday to be held in April. Missions in Europe will be the focus and we hope to have **Gary De Graaf** here to provide up-to-date information on the Church Planting in France. We will check on the latest information from Ireland, as well as from Romania. Keep looking for more information in upcoming *Shepherd* reports.

We want to thank **Stuart Smith** for his involvement in the Missions Commission in 2007. And, we welcome **Dan Marvin** to our Commission..

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, Dan Marvin, Rus & Julie Norem, Wendy Reed, Jerry & Diane Skinner, Alvin & Lois Lundgren Stecker, Larry & Sherie Whitehead.

. . . *George De Graaf* Chair, Mission Commission

DMARC Food Pantry Collection on February 17, 2008

Empty grocery sacks will be distributed by the Deacons after the services on February 3 and February 10. The filled bags will be collected at church on February 17.

Please remember that the Food Pantry appreciates financial contributions so that they can purchase larger quantities of the items needed. If you prefer to make a financial contribution rather than shopping for groceries, please make your check payable to *Westkirk Presbyterian Church* and indicate it is for *Food Pantry*.

Thank you for your continued support.

. . . *Dianne Glanzer, Deacon*

A HouseKirk Birthday Party

Westkirk's small group, Koinonia (Fellowship), had a birthday party for **Jerry Horpestad** at his home Saturday, January 19. Mary Millis presented Jerry with a poem she had written and framed. Sharon Johnson baked a beautiful chocolate birthday cake that was shared following games arranged by hosts Scott and Stacie Bland. Others in attendance included Kay Cunitz, Barry Johnson, John Schvien, Darrell and Linda Aldrich.



Westkirk Commissions Missionary Family

Sunday, January 20 was a unique and special day in the life of Westkirk Presbyterian Church! We formally became the Iowa home church of Brett and Micki Strait, and their children Evan and Eliza. That opportunity was affirmed by the Session this past November, but it was on Sunday the 20th that we celebrated the new ministry relationship we share together by commissioning Brett as a Minister of Evangelism according to the Westkirk Presbyterian Church Book of Order, and having a light luncheon afterwards.

The Straits served as the directors of the Reformed Campus Ministries and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Iowa State University. They became one of the founding families of the Bridgeway Reformed Church in Ames and co-labored in campus and local church ministry through FCA and Bridgeway until the spring of 2005. At that time, they responded to the Lord's call on their lives to spend 10 months serving God and the people of Ahuas, Honduras. Upon returning to Iowa, they determined that the Lord was leading them to move to Colorado Springs, Colorado to join the staff of the Navigators, working with a ministry in the collegiate branch called EDGE Corps. Now, Brett serves on the national team responsible for helping train and mobilize the next generation of college graduates who will be on the front lines reaching college students with the Gospel of Jesus Christ on campuses all over the United States.



You may recall that Pastor Michael visited the Straits on his sabbatical in March of 2006, and Brett preached (and Eliza danced) at Westkirk this past spring. Together, we have agreed to mutual accountability in our ministry relationship through: e-mail updates, quarterly ministry and prayer letters, and personal visits and ministry here at Westkirk. Brett will preach here at Westkirk at least once per year. We are excited to have this wonderful family become part of our covenant community of faith! Please keep the Straits and all our missionaries in your prayers!

Presenting . . .

John & Carolyn Chenoweth



A warm welcome waits at the lovely home of John and Carolyn Chenoweth even on a very cold January day. Inside their spacious Urbandale home, everything is neat and orderly, clean and bright. We got comfortable in their sun-filled living room in which photos of family abound, even on a digital screen slide show.

John and Carolyn knew of each other when growing up in Hoosier country, Carolyn from Farmersburg, and John from Shoals, Indiana. Carolyn and her parents lived across the street from John's maternal grandfather. Carolyn's mother worked for him, and Carolyn attended church camp with John's sisters. John first asked Carolyn for a date by letter. They dated for a while, but Carolyn wasn't ready to get serious. They met two years later at a Methodist Church district meeting where Carolyn was present. Knowing he would be there, she made sure he saw her. John sent a second letter asking her for a date. They were married in 1960 and had three boys, Gregory, Paul and Andrew, who brought to the family nine grandchildren to whom as much time as possible is devoted.

Carolyn was encouraged by her parents to use her music talent. She plays strictly for pleasure, now, and laments that her eyes and fingers aren't what they used to be, but in earlier years, she played piano and organ at church. Later, when their three boys were in high school, she accompanied many students in music contests. She has a large collection of Christian music and treasures a cabinet filled with music from the World War I era, a gift from a friend. Among magazines, Carolyn enjoys the Navigators Discipleship Journal, Saturday Evening Post, and Country magazines, as well as all cookbooks. In past years, Carolyn was a bank teller, dental assistant, and maternity shop clerk, "but her overriding accomplishment has been her devotion to her family as an excellent homemaker, wife, and mother." - John.

John played trombone in the military band at Purdue where he graduated with an engineering degree. He was drafted in 1953 and served as a construction surveyor on NATO airfields in Europe. His principal career was as civil engineer with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. He worked as a water resource planner in Indianapolis and later in Des Moines. Although retired, John consults and works part-time in water hydraulics designing spillways for lakes, studying wetland matters, etc. Formerly, he inspected dams for the State of Iowa. John enjoys reading historical WW II books – especially about the airmen and airplanes -- and about classic cars. Old farm tractors are an interest. The two he had restored and paraded are sold now, but he remains a member of the Central Iowa Two-Cylinder Club. John came from a farming background and was most interested in beef cattle and corn. They bought 80 acres in 1977 near St. Mary's in Warren County, Iowa, where they lived and farmed until 1993.

Their road to Westkirk began with a deeply religious faith background in the Methodist Church, but as they moved, they attended other churches. They came to Westkirk upon recommendation of a pastor who knew Pastor Michael. John and Carolyn joined Westkirk in the summer of 2005.

Several intense personal hardships, caring for her dad in their home the last year of his life, caring for her ill mother in their home for eight years, dealing with a bout of cancer, knee surgery, and the recent estrangement of a son, have been physically and emotionally depleting. Uplifting help comes from their strong faith, the prayers and caring of their Westkirk family and friends, Sunday school, sermons, traditional hymns, and Bible study.



New Life Student Ministry

Westkirk Presbyterian Church &
Urban Heights Evangelical Covenant Church

Do you ever have the feeling that you're really messing up as a parent? This is something that has been on my mind lately. Not because I am messing up as a parent, but because now that Stefanie and I are expecting our first child, I am confident that I will be messing up as a parent sometime in the near future. Don't get me wrong, I plan to do all I can to be the best father I can be, but no one is perfect and mistakes are bound to happen.

I know from my experience working with youth that, even with the best intentions, sometimes things don't go the way we had hoped they would. To prove my point, I'd like to share an article written by John Piper's son Abraham and in it he shares some terrific advice for parents who pray everyday that their sons and daughters will mature into healthy and productive followers of Jesus Christ. I certainly love John Piper's books and teaching (if you haven't read any of Piper's books, please go out and get *The Dangerous Duty of Delight* right away!!), he is truly an inspirational man of God; but even he and his wife are not immune to experiencing heartbreak as a parent. You may obtain a copy of Abraham Piper's article by contacting me at the church office, 253-0330.

I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I did. Let me know what you think.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

* * * * *

(continued from the previous page)

John and Carolyn have served their churches in many capacities, worship and missions committees, teachers, choir, ushering, grounds work, and as members of a HouseKirk and the Highlanders. They continue to demonstrate their faith by a personal ministry of helping neighbors and friends with emotional and physical needs: caring, listening, or driving them to appointments.

I have a special fondness for John and Carolyn Chenoweth, since they were the first couple who welcomed John and me to Westkirk and helped us decide to make Westkirk our new church home.

This couple continues to greet newcomers. Are you one of them?

... by Regi Donaldson

Construction Progress

The parking lot was completed in early January except for the striping. The entire parking lot will be striped when the weather warms up. There should be plenty of parking as we have added a lot of new space. The parking lot lights are also up and working.

The Building and Grounds Commission will be involved with some of the matters that have arisen during construction. Some of the molding surrounding the beams in the Sanctuary is peeling off the ceiling. In the course of construction, we are finding some maintenance items that will need repairs, replacement or just sprucing up.

Russ Harrison heads up a subcommittee for interior design for the construction. The subcommittee has been hard at work picking out cabinets, hardware, carpet, tile, paint, fixtures and furniture for the new wing. The subcommittee has recently met with an interior designer in order to finalize the design of the classrooms, nursery, restrooms, offices and balcony. It is all coming together.

The plan is to have all of the construction done before Easter. The contractor has advised us that we are still on schedule to do so. In the next few weeks the new wing will be roughed in with heating, cooling, electrical and plumbing, the exterior siding will be put in place, the roof finished and the wall between the older east wing and the new wing will be opened up.

Please feel free to contact any of the Building Committee members if you have any questions or comments regarding the new construction - Ken Bratney, Chair; Russ Harrison; Le Main; and Bill Raisch.

. . . Bill F. Raisch, Building Committee



Thank You Notes . . .

Westkirk Presbyterian Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful, exotic tropical plant. It adds much beauty to my days here at Mercy.

May peace and joy warm your heart this holiday season.

*George Krohn
Dorothy & Jeanette*

* * * * *

Thank you so much for the lovely basket arrangement. Our family appreciates your kindness.

Evonne [Schaaf] & family

* * * * *

We would like to thank everyone who baked cookies and those who worked on Saturday, December 1 to make our second Annual Cookie Walk a success.

We took in \$931.00. Again thank you so very much. We do have a great church here at Westkirk.

If anyone has any suggestions for next year, please let Barb Springer, Becky Kobernick or Nyleve Taylor know.

Nyleve Taylor, 314-3252

* * * * *

Thank you, Westkirk friends, for the many phone calls on my 80th birthday. If I had known that I was going to live so long I would have taken up sky diving long ago! It is so typical of the Westkirk family to respond with so many phone calls. I know that I am not alone in reaching such a milestone in our church so I hope everyone at this stage in their life could receive such well wishes on their birthday. Irene and I feel so blessed to be a part of Westkirk.

*God Bless you all.
Dick Reed*

Children's Ministry

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation." 2 Samuel 2-3

David sang these words of praise to the Lord when the Lord delivered him from his enemies. We can sing praises that God comforts us, protects us, and saves us, too! Each week at Westkirk the children have an opportunity to hear Bible stories that show how God comforted his people, protected them, and saved them. When the children reach elementary school, they focus on applying those Bible stories to their lives, and by the time they reach middle school, they are discussing the beliefs, principles, and foundations of their faith. So, whether it is Sunday School, WOW, children's church, VBS, camp, or social events, each experience is designed to help children *Know Christ and Make Him Known*.

Sunday, February 3 there will be a meeting for all parents and those children in sixth grade or above who have not been through **confirmation**. Pizza will be served at noon in the Great Hall, and Pastor Michael will discuss the confirmation program. Classes will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. beginning March 2 and ending with confirmation on May 11.

It is not too late to sign up for some winter fun at Twin Lakes Christian Center in Manson, Iowa. Sixth through eighth graders (BLAST) will be attending the **Wintersnobblastertainment February 8-10**. This is a great opportunity to play games, meet new friends, listen to a "rockin" worship band, and hear entertaining speakers give biblically-based lessons. Sign up today at <http://www.twinlakescc.com/>.

We welcome our newest Children's Ministry volunteer, **Linda Wilde**. On Sunday mornings she is in the Great Hall ready to greet children and their families, take attendance, serve snacks and help keep our supplies organized. Thank you, Linda!

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

The Shepherd

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