

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 23 No. 6 June 2008

Stimulation

We are all being stimulated these days. You know what I'm talking about – your part in Congress' economic stimulus package. In other words – we are all in the process of getting our checks. Ours went into our account via direct deposit just this week. Well, with all the talk about the checks we've been receiving from the government, may I be so bold as to suggest that you prayerfully consider adding 'giving' to your other economic stimulation suggestions?

There is certainly nothing wrong with spending or saving. In fact, I suggest you do those, too. But, each family in our church will receive a check between \$600 and \$3000, as long as they filed a tax return for 2007. Let's think about the possibilities for Westkirk. First, if you are concerned that the sagging economy might impact your ability to fulfill your pledge to the building fund for 2008, you could use some or all of your check to make your pledge ahead of schedule. Our family has already fulfilled our commitment for this year! Second, if you are behind in your giving or fulfilling your building fund pledge, you could catch up now. Third, if you are one of the people who thought you would not be able to give, now is your opportunity. And fourth, you could help us offset the construction costs and changes we've experienced by designating a portion of your 'stimulus check' to one of the needs mentioned in last month's *Shepherd*.

Families are praying about what to do with the money. Just think what it would amount to if all of us just tithed (have 10%) of our stimulus check go to God's work at the church or to some other worthy Christian ministry? We could accomplish all that we would like in the new wing, and have more to spare. Or, how about helping purchase a new van for an orphanage in Mexico? Supporting Ruth Harbor? Setting aside some money to go on a mission trip this November, or something else the Lord may be laying on your heart.

Am I being too bold? Well, according to God's Word, it all belongs to him anyway. It's not the government's money. It's not our money. It's his. Let's take this opportunity, no matter how you use it (spend, save, or give), and glorify God.

Pastor Michael



ESV Psalm 24:1 A PSALM OF DAVID. "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein..."



Westkirk
Presbyterian
Church

The Session

Moderator - Michael Mudlaff

Class of 2008

George De Graaf
Chuck Heitbrink
Ron Long
Kevin Riggins

Class of 2009

Kevin Heer
Marv Nugteren
Barb Springer
Kirk Yentes

Class of 2010

Rick Eyerly
Ryan Glanzer
Jerry Tuinstra
Melinda Turnbull

Clerk of Session - Robin Riggins

Treasurer - Chris Brown

Assistant Treasurer - Aaron Pieper

Commission ChairPersons

Christian Education - Jerry Tuinstra
Evangelism/Fellowship - Van Harden
House and Grounds - Ron Long
Missions - George De Graaf
Stewardship - Chuck Heitbrink
Worship - Kevin Riggins

Board of Deacons

Class of 2008

Barb Asman
Dianne Glanzer
Bette Jones
Fran Nugteren
Kris Thompson

Class of 2009

Marilyn Long
Marilyn McCulloch
John Schwen
Sandy Tuinstra
Sherie Whitehead

Class of 2010

Linda Aldrich
Jeff Brady
Kay Cunitz
Cynthia Fisher
Eric Wickemeyer



- 2 John Kirkeby
- 2 *Ryan Hansen
- 3 *Ava Carlson
- 3 *Ian Carlson
- 3 Bill F. Raisch
- 4 George De Graaf
- 4 Shirley MacLafferty
- 4 Genevieve Stogdill
- 6 Joy Dauterive
- 6 Linda McMullen
- 6 Susan Smith
- 7 *Luke Kinney
- 7 *Lindsey Vis
- 10 *Bradley Sonnichsen
- 11 Don Lanham
- 11 Lynn Etter
- 11 Jerry Skinner
- 12 Lindsey Turnbull
- 12 Melissa Wickemeyer
- 14 Karen Grimmuis
- 15 Mary Jean Petty
- 16 Martha Jane Petty
- 16 Heather Schultz
- 18 *Ben Huyser
- 18 Katie Ohlsen
- 18 Rod Welsher
- 19 Brad Miller
- 21 Nancy Thompson
- 22 Donna Willcox
- 23 Harold Cook
- 24 Nyleve Taylor
- 28 Bob Schmadke
- 30 Barb Springer
- 30 Brian Dixon

*Youth Member



- 1 Dan & Jan Geisler
- 1 Bernie & Becky Kobernick
- 1 Marvin & Francis Nugteren
- 1 Bill & Wanita Oswalt
- 7 Ron & Marilyn Long
- 8 Jeff & Peggy Brady
- 9 Pat & Mirium Alshouse
- 9 Norma & Jake Chapman
- 10 Michael & Sasha Mudlaff
- 16 Wally & Alice Romans
- 16 Doug & Jess Kanis
- 16 Aaron & Jodi Pieper
- 16 Ashlee & Adam Wilson
- 17 Bill & Evva Dawdy
- 22 Dave & Deb Liljedahl
- 24 Mark & Erica Scheve
- 25 Stan & Nancy Thompson
- 26 Tom & Benae Duff
- 27 Tom & Janelle Leahy
- 27 Kirk & Heather Sonnichsen
- 28 Rowdy & Rebecca Smith
- 30 Ann & Chris Hilton

Deacons Say Thanks

The Deacons appreciate the generosity in your response for Food Pantry Sunday. There were 259 food items brought in and \$631 donated (an increase of last quarter). The needs of families in our community are even greater at this time. Thank you to all who participated.

Membership Class Offered

You are invited to become a member of the fellowship of Westkirk Presbyterian Church. Orientation to prepare for church membership will be led by Pastor Michael. You need not have already made a decision to join Westkirk in order to attend. This is an informational class; however, it is a prerequisite for membership.

“Explorers” class will begin **June 22 at 9:00 a.m.** Please register at the Welcome Center to reserve a place in this class.



The Bulletin Board

JUNE Activities – See related articles in this issue.

Sunday	6/1	Teacher Appreciation Breakfast , 8:15 a.m. Sunday School , 9:00 a.m. Worship Service , 10:30 a.m.
Monday	6/2	Commissions meetings , 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	6/3	Just Give Me Jesus Bible Study , 1:00 p.m., Hospitality Room Stephen Ministry meeting , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	6/4	No WOW activities
Thursday	6/5	Just Give Me Jesus Bible Study , 6:30 p.m., Hospitality Room Prayer Shawl Ministry , 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	6/7	Garage Sale , 7:00 a.m -2:00 p.m. * * * * *
Sunday	6/8	Sunday School , 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion , 10:30 a.m. VBS General Information Meeting , 12:30 p.m., Great Hall Sunday Night at the Kirk , 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	6/10	JGMJ Bible Study , 1:00 p.m., Hospitality Room New Light meeting , 6:30 p.m., Hospitality Room
Thursday	6/12	JGMJ Bible Study , 6:30 p.m., Hospitality Room VBS General Information Meeting , 7:00 p.m., Great Hall
Friday	6/13	Club 56 Retreat at the church
Saturday	6/14	Club 56 Retreat * * * * *
Sunday	6/15	Sunday School , 9:00 a.m. Worship Service/Fathers Day , 10:30 a.m. Shepherd articles for July due Elaine Erickson Piano Recital , 3:00 p.m..
Tuesday	6/17	JGMJ Bible Study , 1:00 p.m., Hospitality Room Stephen Ministry meeting , 6:30 p.m.
Thursday	6/19	JGMJ Bible Study , 6:30 p.m., Hospitality Room
Friday	6/20	Movie Night , <i>E.T. The Extra Terrestrial</i> , church lawn * * * * *
Sunday	6/22	Sunday School; Explorers New Member Class , 9:00 a.m. Worship Service , 10:30 a.m. Randall Baby Shower , 3:00 p.m., Hospitality Room
Monday	6/23	Session Meeting . 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	6/24	Bagpipers Luncheon , 1:00 p.m., Jimmy's American, WDM New Light meeting , 6:30 p.m. * * * * *
Sunday	6/29	Sunday School; Explorers New Member Class , 9:00 a.m. Worship Service , 10:30 a.m.



Golfing For Jesus

The warm sunshine has finally taken hold, and that unfamiliar sound coming from your garage is... yes... your golf clubs crying out for attention! We must not neglect #9, #5, #3, daddy driver, uncle wedge, little putt putt, or any of those lonely family members that have been forgotten for so long. It's time to bring them out and nourish them to life.

What a great way to fellowship with each other and have some fun! The idea is that we will have one day a month that we get together and hack our way around some poor course... oh, that poor course... this could be ugly!

Initially, we would like to get an idea of who might be interested (no obligation to every month), and what courses you like. We are thinking that Saturday mornings would work the best, but please send your ideas and we will try to set it up so it works for as many as possible. I can organize the event, please send your information to hugh.sheppard@citi.com or call my cell at 515-339-9944.

... *Hugh Sheppard*

An Opportunity for Service Provide Leadership for the Highlanders

This group is in need of leadership for the future. They have been meeting for lunch and program but are open for new ideas. Your help would be greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact **Pastor Michael or Jack or Bette Jones, 334-9929.**

Christian Education Appreciation Breakfast

On **Sunday, June 1 at 8:15 a.m.** there will be a breakfast for all Christian Education volunteers. We sincerely appreciate all the time and effort these people have put forth this past year to teach and mentor adults, youth and children in their spiritual walk. The following people will be recognized:

Adult Education: George & Gail De Graaf, Van Harden, Kevin Heer, Dan Marvin, Michael Mudlaff, Paul Nelson, Kevin & Robin Riggins

Youth Ministry: Kevin Heer, Elaine Hurst, Steve & Stefanie Randall, Hugh Sheppard

Nursery: Anastasia Admussen, Aubrey Alshouse, Barb Asman, Peggy Brady, Pam Brown, Stephanie Dickinson, Benae Duff, Rachel, Madeline & Meredith Heer, Jennie Meza, Julie Norem, Jodi Pieper, Heather Sonnichsen, Amy & Shyanne Soper, Rene Van Gundy, Myra Verros, Sherie Whitehead

Preschool: Rachel Heer

Kindergarten & First Grade: Karen Admussen

Second & Third Grade: John Schwien, Eric Wickemeyer, Eric Willcox

Fourth Grade Boys: Darrell & Linda Aldrich

Fourth Grade Girls: Chris & Pam Brown

Summer Sunday School: Kevin & Robin Riggins

BLAST: Karen Admussen, Amanda Carlson, Steve & Stefanie Randall

Snacks: Barb Springer, Linda Wilde

WOW: Jennie Meza, Sasha Mudlaff, Nancy Schmidt, Lee & Melinda Turnbull, Jerry & Sandy Tuinstra,

Kids of the Kingdom: Vicki Bone, Monica Brown, Benae Duff, Gloria Huyser, Mallory Wickemeyer

Kid's Own Worship: Karen Admussen, Peggy Brady, Pam Brown, Benae Duff, Diane Leonard, Sasha Mudlaff, Julie Norem, Hugh & Deann Sheppard, Heather Sonnichsen, Trent & Dawn Vis, Sherie Whitehead

We apologize if we inadvertently omitted any names!



Alpha Course

It's not too early to begin considering joining us this fall for the Alpha course.

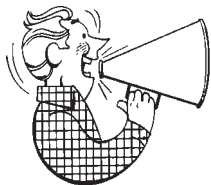
What is Alpha? Alpha is ten-week opportunity to explore the validity and relevance of the Christian Faith to your life today. It is a practical introduction to the basics of Christianity centered around a free meal, a talk and small-group discussion.

Who can come to Alpha? Alpha is for everyone from the non-Christian seeking to know Christ for the first time to the fully committed believer striving to know Christ more; and it's a terrific opportunity to invite a friend, co-worker, or neighbor who doesn't have a church family to come along with you to the Alpha course.

When does the next Alpha course begin? We'll begin with the Celebration Dinner on August 20, a time to hear from those who have completed the course in the past and to check out what a typical night of Alpha looks like, followed by our official fall kickoff on Wednesday, September 10 at Java Joe's Coffeehouse in Downtown Des Moines.

Also, the Alpha Leadership Team would like to invite members of the congregation to prayerfully consider joining the Alpha Leadership Team this fall. We need people who will simply be committed to helping ensure that Alpha is a positive experience for those who attend each week. Leadership training courses will begin on August 6 at 7:00 p.m. at Westkirk.

Please see Pastor Steve or a member of the Evangelism Commission if you are interested in signing up for the Alpha course or if you would be interested in serving on the Alpha leadership team this fall.



Plan On It!!

The Mission Commission Huge Garage Sale at the Church is on **Saturday, June 7.** Round up those "treasures" you've set aside to donate. Volunteer to help, too.



You are Invited

To a baby shower
For Steve & Stefanie Randall
Sunday, June 22, 3:00 p.m.
Westkirk Presbyterian Church
Hospitality Room

(Registered at Babies R Us under Stefanie's full name, "Stefanie Donnell-Randall" and a cloth diapering place called The Stork Warehouse. The link to their registry is: <http://www.thestorkwarehouse.com/giftreg/stefanie.htm>)

Evangelism at Work at Westkirk

Dog trainer Linda Farr, famous for her appearances on the Tonight Show and Animal Planet, put on an amazing demonstration with her dog "Disco" on Saturday, May 10. Nearly 130 visitors ringed the Narthex at Westkirk to watch the show and hear Linda talk of her faith and calling to serve others with her dogs.

She also taught Van Harden how to get a dog to do "figure 8's" between his legs, as seen below. Hot dogs and puppy chow treats were served to everyone after the demonstration.



Summer Movies at Westkirk

Please plan to join the Evangelism Commission again this summer for our outdoor movie series. Free popcorn, pop, and a family friendly movie, all the ingredients for a great evening of fun and fellowship. All movies will begin at dusk and will be shown out on the church lawn at Westkirk. We hope to see you there!

Movies Under the Stars

June 20 E.T. The Extra Terrestrial

July 11 Evan Almighty

July 25 Goonies

August 15 Bella

August 22 The Final Season

**Rain dates are scheduled for the following evening.*

Bear One Another's Burdens

Each week Pastor Michael asks us to pray for the people listed in the bulletin on the Concerns list. At times he mentions a special situation in someone's life. When I think the list is too long, I am reminded that each of us could be on that list at any time. The list only identifies those who are experiencing a crisis in their lives and are willing to share it with our church family. When their names are removed from our list, it may mean that their time of crisis is past but not necessarily that their burdens have been lifted.

In Galatians 6, Paul tells us to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." At Westkirk, our **Stephen Ministers** have been trained and organized to do just that. They provide one-to-one care, prayer, and support to those who are going through a difficult time.

If you would like more information about our Stephen Ministry, please call Pastor Michael, or one of our Stephen Leaders.

What a Way to Bring in Spring!

May was a wonderful celebration month here at Westkirk. **Mission Sunday** brought several missionaries to share the latest news from Europe. Dr. Peter and Ana Lucaciu from Romania, Gary De Graaf from France, Karen Langstraat from the Greater Europe Missions board, and our own Dan Marvin who has served in Hungary told us of the great need and the ongoing efforts to reach out in the name of our Lord. An international luncheon followed.

Mother's Day was a time for the children to lead us in worship, with song, Scripture reading and the messages shared by Monica Brown and Micah Mudlaff. The Confirmation Class shared their statements of faith as they became members of the church.

On **Music Sunday**, the choir filled the service with favorite anthems as well as a few new selections, including solos by Barbara Robinson and Ryan Glanzer. While summer may bring a more relaxed schedule, remember there is always worship and celebration here with God's people!

Our sincere thanks to all who planned and participated in these three wonderful services.

Housekirk News

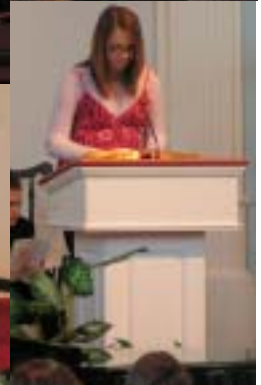
A new blog, www.housekirks.org, has been created for the purpose of providing HouseKirk group leaders a place to find leadership resources and curriculum ideas. However, this new site is for everyone, those currently in a HouseKirk and for those who would like to learn more or even get signed up. Please stop by when you get a chance and let me know if you have any suggestions.

In the coming weeks, we would like to invite some of you to write a short article for this blog, explaining why your HouseKirk has been important to you. Please let us know if you're interested in sharing your HouseKirk experience with the rest of the congregation.

For those of you who are interested in joining a HouseKirk, please feel free to contact **Pastor Steve** for more information.



*Children's Sunday
May 11*





Awareness

I heard a lot of comments regarding that word “AWARENESS.” This was in response to the information provided on Mission Sunday. We are so thankful to everyone who made that day a blessing at Westkirk. So many responded that they were not aware of the situation over in Europe and were so interested in the comments as well as saddened by the reports of what is taking place in their ancestral homelands. We praise God for faithful workers who even today have seen the need to venture back into those areas with the Gospel of Christ, bringing hope to millions who unfortunately do not know Jesus Christ. We say it seems unbelievable, yet shudder when we hear the reports from those over there. Continue to pray for Missions in Europe as well as all over the Globe.

HUGE GARAGE SALE on Saturday, June 7 to raise money for the proposed Mission trip to Monterey, Mexico to visit the Huffers at Back2Back. Our youth are thinking about an Ice Cream Social which will be held on the same day to help them in their efforts to raise money for a future Mission trip. So it will be a dual event, hopefully attracting the neighborhood. If you are a “Garage Sale Junkie” and know how to price items, we would love to have you help us.. There are gifted people who know the ins and outs of garage sale methodology and we need your help. See George De Graaf if interested. Please support both events by donating items for the sale and also in helping out. The Mission trip is in November, so if you are interested in joining the group, please see Rus and Julie Norem. All ages are welcome.

RUTH HARBOR BABY BOTTLES

Did you get a baby bottle??? Do not forget to fill and return them by Fathers Day, June 16. It is very easy to put them aside in a cabinet or drawer and forget where they are. You can bring them back to church any time before Fathers Day as well. We will have a box in the Narthex where you can place them. Thank you for participating in this fund raiser. Ruth Harbor will certainly appreciate our support as they reach out to young women in a stressful time of their lives. Pray for Ruth Harbor and the impact they have on these girls and their families. See Diane Skinner if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Several Churches in Des Moines are trying out this concept and we will join them this year also. Samaritans Purse OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD is the ministry where we wrap and fill shoeboxes for children all over the world, and it has made a tremendous impact with governments in nations that would otherwise prevent any involvement from Mission programs in their country. Rather than wait until November to do this, we thought some of you might want to do it when the weather is nice and stores have sales on school items. We will pass out wrapped empty shoeboxes in July and have you return them in July. They will be stored until the main collection in November. So you will have two opportunities to help out with this ministry. See Somer Gillett if you have any questions.

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, Mission Commission Chair



Thank You Notes. . .

Dear Westkirk family.

Thank you for the many prayers and notes of encouragement I have received. The girls and I have come to appreciate the love and support that has been demonstrated through our Westkirk family in a new way. This love has been a very powerful demonstration of God's love for each of us, and I thank Him for allowing us to be a part of this church family. I cannot express in words how very blessed my family has been during my absence. God has met the needs of my family in ways I never could have asked, and He is using this time to draw each of us closer to Himself. I am continually in awe of how God cares for His own, and have found a peace over here that I know we are in His will.

God has blessed me with the opportunity to be a part of a small group of men watching the Truth Project. This is my 3rd time and I am amazed at how each time we meet God teaches me a new truth about Himself. It is a wonderful encouragement to have Christian brothers over here to lift me up and to study God's word.

I look forward to how God will continue to refine me during the last month of my deployment, and continue to work in the life of my family. I ask for your prayers that my family would continue to feel His presence, and bring Him honor and glory with my service over here.

Your Brother in Christ,
Kevin [Heer]



Thank you so much for the wind chimes. Unlike flowers which last a season, wind chimes last years. Every time it sounds, I'll think of my Mom and Westkirk.

Roger Nagel

Westkirk Presbyterian Church Members,

Thank you so much for remembering our dad in such a unique way. The food basket was beautiful and bountiful and gave our large, blended family sustenance. The support you gave Kris and Terry and all of us is much appreciated.

The Family of George Krohn
[Kris Thompson's father]

* * * * *

East Wing Update

The new wing is nearly finished! Most of the carpet has been laid. The furnaces and air conditioning are in place and hooked up. The elevator has been installed and is awaiting a phone line for completion. The restrooms have floor coverings installed and fixtures are in place. As I write the grading is being done around the new parking lot. The rooms in the basement, except for the Youth room, have been finished for the most part.



We are awaiting the seats for the balcony, hardware for the doors and furniture for the classrooms. Everything is coming together as the finishing touches are completed. The week after Memorial Day weekend the rooms will be painted. The doors should be in place by then. It shouldn't be long after the rooms have been painted that the switch covers and outlet covers will be put in place. Punch list items are being taken care of now.

We are in the homestretch and it is all coming together quickly. Once completed, the new wing and balcony will be inspected by the City before an occupancy permit will be issued.

. . . Bill F. Raisch, Building Committee

Presenting

Cynthia Fisher

I spent an enjoyable evening with Cynthia Fisher indulging in a delicious meal at a local Perkins. Just like so many others, Cynthia eventually returned to the place of her childhood. She was born in Des Moines and attended Rice Elementary, Franklin Jr. High and Roosevelt High School. After marrying, she was blessed with two healthy sons. Sean is a DJ and is living in Rochester, MN. Matt lives in Des Moines and is raising two daughters, Maddy and Taylor. Miss Sadie joined the family when her brother bought this adorable kitty for her from the Animal Rescue League three years ago. Cynthia has lived in a few other states but came back to this area in 1972 and has worked at American Republic, World Book, and Skyline Realty. She is now a corporate secretary at Iowa Realty where she has worked for the past 25 years.



Cynthia was not raised in a Christian home but when she moved back to Des Moines, a neighbor invited her to attend First Federated Church. The Holy Spirit worked in her heart and she gave her life to the Lord. She was an active member and made many Christian friends. The church was making changes in their service and Cynthia was lead to visit Westkirk one Sunday two years ago. As she said, "I knew I was now at home" with this friendly congregation. She is currently a Deacon, on the Mission Commission, Chairman of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and belongs to a HouseKirk. Since that doesn't keep her busy enough, she volunteers at Iowa Methodist Hospital, volunteers at Agape Pregnancy Center, is a member of Urbandale Lioness, is a member of PEO, is an Ambassador for Hope Ministries, and is the Charity Coordinator of Central Iowa Knitters.

Where does this woman find her energy and enthusiasm? She has a strong faith in God and depends on Him for grace and guidance. She is a breast cancer survivor since 1993 which is now 15 years ago. Praise God! She has an interesting story about the consultation for her exam results, scheduling surgery and the hospital conditions during that summer of the "flood." But with her sense of humor and her uplifting attitude, she is a joy to spend time with. She walks daily with Jesus and her Bible at her side.

. . . Interviewed by Myra Verros

By Request: Gail De Graaf's Gluten-free Jelly Roll Recipe

For the filling, just use any pudding, instant works fastest. Use less milk than it calls for. To each filling I added about 1/2-3/4 C Cool Whip to stretch it. Then I wrapped it in foil and stored in refrigerator.

Ingredients

3 eggs, separated	1 whole egg	3/4 c sugar	2 t lemon juice
grated rind of 1/2 lemon	1/4 c plus 1 T potato starch	dash of salt	confectioner's sugar

Directions

Beat the 3 egg yolks with the whole egg until light. Gradually add the sugar, lemon juice and lemon rind; continue beating for two minutes. Sift the potato starch; gradually stir it into the egg yolk mixture.

In a separate bowl, beat the egg whites with the salt until stiff but not dry; gently fold the eggs into the egg yolk mixture.

Line a greased jellyroll pan with waxed paper; grease the wax paper. Distribute the batter evenly in the pan. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and bake for 35 minutes or until the cake springs back when lightly touched.

Turn out the cake onto a towel that has been dusted with Confectioner's sugar. Remove waxed paper. Roll up the cake together with the towel. When cool, unroll, spread with one or more cups of the filling of your choice, and re-roll.

Serves 6 to 8.

New Life

Another school year has come to an end and the senior high youth would like to thank all of you for supporting them throughout the year. Many of you do not see all the youth who attend our senior high ministry each week, but your support and prayers for these youth is making an impact in their lives and for the kingdom. Thank you!

New Life will continue to meet throughout the summer, but not in its traditional format. Youth will be invited to attend several upcoming events (i.e., bonfire gatherings, movie nights, service projects, and more) during the summer months. We'll also be working to establish our senior high small group ministry, so please continue to pray for these youth and for our ministry.

Sadly (for me...they can't wait to move to college and other exciting opportunities), a few of our youth have graduated and will be moving on this fall. Graduates include:

Alex Kloppenstein, Johnston
Caitlin Miller, Valley
Alex Stanbrough, Johnston
Aaron Reed, Roosevelt

These young people have become tremendous leaders in the senior high ministry over the past few years and I know that God will continue to use them as they mature for His purposes. If you see them, please congratulate them on all they've accomplished and wish them well as they take on new challenges this coming fall.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Steve

Yo, Ho, Ho, Westkirk!

Avast ye Mateys! We're teaming up with Urban Heights Evangelical Covenant Church this summer to bring VeggieTales VBS "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything" to our community!

From July 27 through the 31st, we're askin' all landlubbers who want to be "Heroes for God" to join us on a Pirate adventure like none other. We'll swap tales about the Bible's finest heroes, make pirate treasure crafts to keep and wear, and have fun! No walkin' the plank for you this summer - climb aboard the *HMSteadfast* with us, where the King himself is calling you to be a part of His eternal crew.

On Sunday, June 8, we will hold our first General Information Meeting at 12:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. A light lunch will be provided. Also, Thursday, June 12 there will be a second General Information Meeting in case you cannot come on the 8th. Anyone who is interested in being a part of VBS, either in a major role or behind the scenes, is welcome to come!

There is a poster by the Welcome Center where you can sign up for an open position or to bring a snack or to help us decorate the church. Also, you can turn the bulletin inserts in to the treasure box to tell us if you can volunteer or how many of your children plan to attend. Having this information early will help us plan better!

If you have a serger sewing machine or if you are willing to help cut out fabric for craft projects, please contact Gloria, Karen, or Sherie Whitehead. We would also love to have some VeggieTales costumes made!

Have any questions?? Call **Admiral Gloria Huyser (284 - 7443)** or **Captain Karen Admussen (at the church)** for details or to volunteer!



Children's Ministry

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.” Matthew 7:24-25

Isn't it wonderful to have a solid rock to stand on? Sometimes we step off the rock or even forget we are standing on it. But it's always there. God gives us a place where we are always chosen and adopted by him, redeemed, blessed, accepted, forgiven, and loved. Let's give that to our children, too.

At Westkirk this month we are switching to a summer schedule which means that we still have Sunday School and Kid's Own Worship, as well as Kids of the Kingdom. The Sunday School will have a new look as the children all meet together for *And the Winner Is*. This summer Kevin and Robin Riggins will lead the children in learning how to run the race of life with purpose, how to use the imPACT model of prayer, the value of obedience, and the power of trusting God. All children ages 3-12 are encouraged to come play games, eat snacks, and study what the Bible says about being a winner.

Extreme Faith: Friday, June 13-Saturday, June 14, CLUB 56 will have a retreat at church, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 a.m. All upcoming fifth and sixth graders should plan for an overnight of faith, fellowship, and fun.

Children's Worship Sunday: Thank you to all the children who did a marvelous job leading worship on Mother's Day. Special thanks to all the adults who assisted including Gloria Huyser, Sasha Mudlaff, Gail De Graaf, Elaine Erickson, Pastor Michael, Elaine Hurst, and Myra Verros!

Confirmation: We welcome and congratulate the following students who were received as members of Westkirk Presbyterian Church: Anna Brown, Molly Brown, Olivia Eyerly, Landon Miller, Ashley Norem, and Cora Springer. These six students completed Pastor Michael's six-week class where they studied The Apostles' Creed. They then wrote their own statements of faith and presented them during the worship service on Sunday, May 11.

*Karen Admussen,
Director of Children's Ministry*



The Shepherd

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