

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

# Shepherd

Volume 23 No. 9 September 2008

## Is There More to Life Than This?

<sup>ESV</sup> **Romans 11:36** *For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*

The promotional piece for our fall Alpha Course says, “Is there more to life than this? Explore Alpha: an opportunity to explore the meaning of life.” The implied answer, of course, is, ‘Yes! There is more to life than this!’ And most of you reading this newsletter would probably agree. But there are also many of us (though in agreement with that statement), upon further review, who would say, ‘Is there really? Is there *really* more to life than this?’ And that is a good question. Let’s face it. Many of us have just gotten the kids back to school, and for all of us, the ‘normal’ routine is back now that the end of summer is here. Everything is ramping back up and it’s a good time to pause, take a deep breath and wonder if there really is more to life than this. Or, are we just going through the motions?

Well, the biblical truth on this matter requires that we refocus our attention on God, and fight against the 21<sup>st</sup> century emphasis on self-centered living. In our day, accumulating stuff, money, and pleasure (beauty, socialization, sports, hobbies and leisure activities) drive us away from the thankfulness that comes from a healthy recognition of God and his grace as the source of our salvation and *all* good things. But in order to know and live like there is more to life than this, we must be God-centered, not self-centered.

Paul’s statement at the end of Romans 11 reminds us that we must pursue a God-centered approach to life. Do you hear how many times in verse 36 Paul refers to HIM? All things come *from* God. He is the source or origin. <sup>ESV</sup> **John 1:3** says, “*All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*” Then, all things go *through* God, meaning that he sustains or keeps all that he has created. As we studied in our sermon series on God’s providence, Paul writes also, <sup>ESV</sup> **Colossians 1:17** “*And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*” And finally, ‘*to him are all things,*’ reminds us that God did all this for his own glory. The creation, including us, is for his pleasure – that was his goal from the beginning. Dr. John Hannah puts it this way, “He who created all things is the end for which all things were made.” This radical, biblical understanding of the meaning of life, is in contrast to values and priorities of our contemporary world. We were made to glorify God!

All this means that we will never understand, appreciate, or fulfill the meaning of life until we set ourselves on the goal of glorifying God. And we will discover that glorifying God is what will ultimately give us the most pleasure as well. We have been deceived. We believe that the world’s pleasures hold the meaning of life, but only God’s pleasure, his glory, is what will satisfy. What can you do now to focus less on you and more on God so that he is glorified and you are satisfied? Only then will we be fulfilled and know the true meaning of life.

**Pastor Michael**



<sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 6:33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*



**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  
 Marillyn McCulloch  
 John Schvien  
 Sandy Tuinstra  
 Sherie Whitehead

*Class of 2010*

Linda Aldrich  
 Jeff Brady  
 Kay Cunitz  
 Cynthia Fisher  
 Eric Wickemeyer



- 7 ..... Cynthia Fisher
  - 7 ..... Jack Jones
  - 8 ..... Fergus Taylor
  - 9 ..... Erica Jensen
  - 9 ..... Mary Watkins
  - 10 ..... Diane Leonard
  - 10 ..... Melinda Turnbull
  - 11 ..... Karen Admussen
  - 12 ..... Barbara Robinson
  - 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

**Condolences**

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Trent and Dawn Vis** on the loss of Trent's sister, Debra Fey who died on Friday, July 25 in Cloquet, MN.

And, our sincere sympathy to **Dan & Christine Kinney** on the death of Christine's mother, Betty Jo Winter, on July 29 in Clarinda, IA.



- 11 ..... John & Carolyn Chenoweth
- 16 ..... Dan & Marti Marvin
- 18 ..... Bill & Marcia Raisch
- 18 ..... Trent & Dawn Vis
- 19 ..... Russ & Ellen Harrison
- 25 ..... Ken & Dottie Phillips
- 29 ..... Doug & Casey Phipps
- 30 ..... Chuck & Sarah Brumfield
- 30 ..... Brad & Kelli Miller

**The Kirk to be Re-Keyed**

On **Monday, September 15**, the church will be re-keyed to match the new locks on the exterior of the new wing. After that date you may discard your old key, but plan ahead for your events and contact Elaine Hurst in the church office to request a new temporary or permanent access card.

The cards may not be available immediately, as the Technology Committee will program each card individually to give you access to the building on the specific day and for the time of need. This will help us reduce the number of outstanding and un-accounted-for keys, and also monitor who has access to the building for security reasons. After hours access will be limited to the new doors near the church offices in order to avoid having several unlocked doors at once, as well as doors mistakenly left unlocked overnight. Thank you for your patience as we make this transition!

**Food Pantry**

Thank you for your response to the Deacons' plea for the area food pantry. Bags containing 271 food items were supplemented by \$356 cash donations. The next collection will be in November.



# The Bulletin Board

## September Activities – See related articles in this issue.

Monday	9/1	<b>Labor Day</b> , Office closed
Tuesday	9/2	<b>Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff)</b> , 9:00 a.m. <b>Stephen Ministry meeting</b> , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	9/3	<b>WOW, Westkirk on Wednesday, resumes</b> , supper at 5:45 p.m. <b>Choir rehearsal</b> , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	9/4	<b>Women's Bible Study (Yentes)</b> , 7:00 p.m. <b>Prayer Shawl Ministry</b> , 7:00 p.m. * * * * *
Sunday	9/7	<b>Sunday School</b> , 9:00 a.m.; <b>Worship Service</b> , 10:30 a.m.
Monday	9/8	<b>Commissions/Special Session Meeting</b> , 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	9/9	<b>Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff)</b> , 9:00 a.m. <b>New Light meeting</b> , 6:30 p.m., Hospitality Room
Wednesday	9/10	<b>WOW</b> , supper at 5:45 p.m.; <b>Choir rehearsal</b> , 7:30 p.m. <b>Alpha meets at Java Joe's Coffeehouse</b> , 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	9/11	<b>Dorcas Circle</b> , 1:00 p.m. <b>Financial Peace University</b> , 6:30 p.m. <b>Women's Bible Study (Yentes)</b> 7:00 p.m. * * * * *
Sunday	9/14	<b>Sunday School</b> , 9:00 a.m.; <b>Worship Service/Communion</b> , 10:30
Monday	9/15	<b>Sunday Night at the Kirk</b> , 6:30 p.m. <b>Church locks to be re-keyed</b> <b>Articles for October Shepherd due</b> <b>Session/Deacons Meeting</b> , 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	9/16	<b>Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff)</b> , 9:00 a.m. <b>The Clan (House Kirk)</b> , Great Hall, 1:00 p.m. <b>Stephen Ministry training</b> , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	9/17	<b>WOW</b> , supper at 5:45 p.m., <b>Choir rehearsal</b> , 7:30 p.m. <b>Alpha</b> , Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	9/18	<b>Financial Peace University</b> , 6:30 p.m. <b>Women's Bible Study (Yentes)</b> 7:00 p.m. * * * * *
Sunday	9/21	<b>Sunday School</b> , 9:00 a.m.; <b>Worship Service</b> , 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday	9/23	<b>Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff)</b> , 9:00 a.m. <b>Bagpipers Luncheon</b> , 1:00 p.m., Granite City, 12801 University <b>New Light meeting</b> , 6:30 p.m. <b>Stephen Ministry training</b> , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	9/24	<b>WOW</b> , supper at 5:45 p.m., <b>Choir rehearsal</b> , 7:30 p.m. <b>Alpha</b> , Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	9/25	<b>Financial Peace University</b> , 6:30 p.m. <b>Women's Bible Study (Yentes)</b> 7:00 p.m. * * * * *
Sunday	9/28	<b>Sunday School/Explorers</b> , 9:00 a.m.; <b>Worship Service</b> , 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday	9/30	<b>Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff)</b> , 9:00 a.m. <b>Stephen Ministry training</b> , 6:30 p.m.



## Women's Bible Studies

Starting the first week in September there will be two women's Beth Moore Bible studies titled "Breaking Free."

**Sasha Mudlaff** will lead a group on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m., beginning **September 2**, and **Mona Yentes** will lead a group on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m., beginning **September 4**. Both groups will finish in December and also meet at Westkirk, but the Thursday evening group may move to Mona's home after the first meeting.

If you want to be a part of either group, please contact Sasha or Mona. The Tuesday morning group is also looking for volunteers to help with childcare. Please contact Sasha if you are interested in helping with childcare.

## WOW Resumes September 3

With Fall comes the beginning of **Westkirk on Wednesday** for the 2008-2009 season. Plan now to come for supper at 5:45 p.m. on September 3. Immediately following supper there will be the annual balloon release, always an exciting time anticipating whose balloon will travel the farthest. Then come activities and Bible study for all ages. There will be interesting things for everyone.

Just a reminder that a free-will offering will be collected for supper each week. As with all our home expenses, the cost for the church to produce these meals has continued to escalate. It is now approximately \$4.00 per meal.

## Dorcas Circle

**Thursday, September 11** all ladies of the church and their guests are invited to come to Dorcas Circle at 1:00 p.m. **Gail De Graaf** will be leading us in a faith lesson based on a DVD series from *That the World May Know Ministries* with Ray Vander Laan. The series is filmed on location and adds historical, cultural, religious, and geographical information to bring the scriptures alive. Dessert and beverages will be provided by **Genevieve Stogdill and Bette Jones**. Please join us for faith, food, and fellowship.



## Have you considered joining us for the Alpha course?

Alpha is our main evangelistic effort at Westkirk and it is the place to invite your friends and family members who are exploring Christianity for the first time or who are interested in brushing up on the foundational truths of the faith. If you've never experienced Alpha, please consider joining us for the entire course or even just for a single night so that you get an idea of what Alpha is all about at Westkirk. **Alpha begins September 10**, so call the church office today to register or contact Pastor Steve for more information. We hope to see you at Alpha!!

### Fall 2008 Alpha Schedule Java Joe's Coffeehouse 214 4th Street Downtown Des Moines 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday evenings

- 9/10 Who is Jesus?
- 9/17 Why Did Jesus Die?
- 9/24 How Can I Be Sure of My Faith?
- 10/1 Why and How Should I Read the Bible?
- 10/8 Why and How Do I Pray?
- 10/15 How Does God Guide Us?
- 10/22 How Can I Overcome Evil?
- 10/24 & 25 Alpha Retreat @ TBD
- Who Is the Holy Spirit?
- What Does the Holy Spirit Do?
- How Can I Be Filled with the Spirit?
- How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?
- 10/29 How and Why Should I Tell Others?
- 11/5 Does God Heal Today?
- 11/12 What About the Church?

## House Kirks

One of the primary ways we build relationships and cultivate fellowship with each other here at Westkirk is through a network of small groups—what we call “House Kirks.” While we are joined to all believers in the local church, House Kirks allow us to relate more deeply with a small group of people. An integral part of Westkirk’s ministry, House Kirks provide an important context for accomplishing a number of biblical priorities.

“The value of the small group is that it can become a community of related persons, and in it the benefit of relatedness cannot be missed nor its challenge evaded. I do not think it is an exaggeration to say, therefore, that small groups... are indispensable for our growth into spiritual maturity.” —**John Stott**

### Purpose

1. **Application of God’s word to our lives.** Merely hearing God’s word is insufficient; we must apply it to our lives for there to be fruit. House Kirks enable us to do this together. We seek to apply the Bible’s teaching, review Sunday messages, discuss Christian books, and use a variety of other resources with the intention of growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. **Pursuit of biblical fellowship.** Genuine fellowship isn’t practical in a large crowd. House Kirks provide a place where we can build intimate relationships, care for one another, and help each other grow in our relationship with God.
3. **Ministry to one another.** God has made us dependent on each other, and House Kirks provide a context where we can minister to each other with the gifts that God has given us. Meetings often include times of prayer for one another and opportunities for individuals to exercise spiritual gifts for the edification of others.

### Getting Started!

It’s easy to get involved in a House Kirk! You may indicate that you are interested in a group on the Connection Card at the Welcome Center, call the church office, or get in touch with Pastor Steve. Once we have received your information, we will work hard to get you plugged in as soon as possible. Sometimes this process moves quickly, and sometimes it may take us a few months.

We’ll keep in touch with you along the way and let you know as soon as we have a leader in place and your group is ready to go! We’re looking forward to getting you connected!



## Financial Report

The financial report is in and complete for the first half of the year. Through July we have generated an \$11,000+ surplus. The most encouraging portion is that the majority of the surplus is from the last two months.

On August 3, the congregation approved the recommendation from the Session to borrow an additional \$50,000 on the pledge loan and an additional \$50,000 on the mortgage. This was necessary to complete the project and cover additional expenses incurred due to weather and city/county demands. It is important to remember that even though additional funds are being borrowed, the monthly payment is less than planned last year when the project was approved. This was accomplished by securing an extremely favorable mortgage rate.

Please remember that a major component of this project was based on building fund pledges earmarked for 2007, 2008 and 2009. These pledges are over and above normal giving. To assure proper tracking of these pledges, please remember to mark your check “Building Pledge.” If you have recently joined Westkirk or did not have an opportunity to pledge to the construction project last year, you may do so by making your pledge now.

The Stewardship Commission would like to thank the members and friends of Westkirk for their faithfulness to the ministry.

*Chuck Heitbrink,  
Stewardship Chair*



## SUMMER TIME

During the summer months, we generally think of this time as a break from school activities, vacation time for families when they can get away to Disneyland or Disney World, time to go fishing with Dad, visit some historical landmark, or just sight-see the beautiful places in our great country.

I have been receiving newsletters or e-mails from several of the missionaries that Westkirk supports. I take note that they just keep on going (like the Battery Bunny) in carrying out the good news of salvation where God has seen fit to place them. For example; **Jessica Duff** (Wycliffe SEED Translators) continues to attend workshops and training sessions throughout the summer months in preparation for continued work among the African people. **Greg & Cathy Huffer**, (Back2Back Ministries) spend the summer months assisting the many mission teams that come down to help out with the orphanages and other projects. **Brian & Heather Hanneman**, and **Brett and Micki Strait**, (Navigators) attend Summer Camps working with other Navigators and also going out every Saturday into the mountains reaching people with the Gospel of Christ. **Karen and Dave Eggert** as well as **Gwen and Ward Schmeidel** (Campus Crusade For Christ) attended Summer Conferences in Colorado working with other Mission teams preparing for the activities during the upcoming school year. Campus ministries, like Campus Crusade and The Navigators, use the summer months to receive some needed self-building tools as well as encouragement, to get them through the next school year. **Gary De Graaf** in France, **Jonathan and Becky Schuster** in Ireland (Greater Europe Mission) again just keep their ministry going in reaching out, involved in Bible Studies, prayer time, one-on-one contact with the local people throughout the summer. This is the time when people can be outside and seem willing to talk. They can be met in restaurants, parks, on street corners. Summer time offers these opportunities.

The local ministries here in Des Moines, **Ruth Harbor**, **Hope Ministries**, **Freedom for Youth**, do not shut down for the summer either. They just keep going and we praise God for their ministry and willingness to carry on each of the ministries God has called them to. In fact, the summer months bring in a lot of people wandering the streets and in need of food, shelter, clothing, etc., a perfect opportunity to share the Gospel to these in need. We thank God for all of these committed people and we ask that you keep all of them in your prayers all year long.

### **Mexico Mission Trip.**

**November 6** is getting closer. That is when the Mission team will be heading down to Monterey, Mexico. Keep them in your prayers as they work out the schedules for the activities while down in Mexico, obtain travel information, check the various airlines and get the best rates, etc. If you would like to offset some of their costs, you may do so by writing a check to *Westkirk* and specify *For The Mission Team Travel Expenses*. It would be greatly appreciated. So far we have 10 persons going, but I understand that there are some others who might go also.

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, and Larry & Sherie Whitehead.

. . . *George De Graaf, Missions Chair*

# Presenting . . .

## Ron and Darlene Reighard

The three of us spent an afternoon around Ron and Darlene's kitchen table relating experiences. Following is a brief story of their lives.

Darlene was born in Lititz, Pennsylvania which is in Lancaster County. She is from a Mennonite family, the third of three children. She attended public elementary school, a Mennonite High School and a secretarial college in the area. She then moved to New York City. There she worked in the Voluntary Service which is a program through the Mennonite Church. Her work was in secretarial administration of the medical area at New York University. She was there for three years after which she moved to Florida and worked as a legal secretary for another three years. Her next move brought her to Iowa. Here she worked for the Iowa Health system for thirty-two years and managed the "Lifeline" service the last fifteen years. She retired in February, 2007. Darlene continues to help out with the "Lifeline" service, does some volunteer work and is a "First Lady" at Westkirk on Thursday mornings.

Ron was born here in Des Moines at Lutheran Hospital. He had one brother who died in 2002. The family lived here only a short while. He started school in Adel and attended there through part of third grade. Ron's mother and father divorced, so he, his mother and brother moved to California and lived with his mother's family. He then attended school in California through the middle of tenth grade. His father became ill with lung cancer which brought them back to Des Moines in 1960. His father died in November of 1961. Back in Des Moines, he went to high school at Johnston for a short while but graduated from North High School. Ron and his brother attended the Federated Church and were active in "Youth for Christ." His next step was Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, receiving a diploma from the Institute. He completed his B.A. at the University of Iowa with a degree in religion and philosophy. Following that he went to the Fuller Seminary for one year with thoughts of working in youth ministry. Plans changed and he returned to the state of Iowa. He received a graduate assistant's scholarship from Drake University and there received his Master's Degree in Social Studies and History. He then taught Social Studies in the middle school of the West Des Moines System staying there for thirty years. He retired in 2005, but continues to do a little substitute work.

Ron and Darlene met through a mutual friend and have been married for twenty-eight years. Their family consists of two boys, the older son lives in Washington, D.C. and the younger one in Des Moines. Ron and Darlene are big Hawkeye football fans. Ron says he hasn't missed an Iowa game for thirty-eight years! They also enjoy the Drake men's and women's basketball games. They both like to travel and golf. Darlene adds reading to her enjoyment list, while Ron likes his garden. They joined our family at Westkirk in 2000.

When you see this couple at Westkirk or anywhere else, stop them, introduce yourselves and visit with them. You should meet these interesting people!



. . . by Helen Main

## **Thank You Notes . . .**

*Westkirk Presbyterian Church,*

*Many thanks to everyone for their thoughts, prayers and kindnesses during my hospital stay and recovery period.*

*Special thanks to Pastor Michael for his hospital visits and prayers. We appreciate all our church friends*

*Thank you,  
Mary King*

*Dear Westkirk,*

*I wish to thank everyone for their prayers and words of comfort during these last few weeks. What a blessing it is to see God's Grace poured out thru you in cards, flowers, the snack basket (sent to Duluth) and the phone calls as we grieved the loss of a loved sister.*

*Thank You!  
Trent Vis & family*

*Dear Pastor Michael, Choir, Deacons, and our Westkirk Family,*

*Thank you for your hospital visits, home visit, prayers, telephone calls, flowers, plant and many cards.*

*We appreciate you being there in our time of need. We were blessed that the lung nodule was benign.*

*God Bless You,  
Jack & Barb Wilson*

*Westkirk Presbyterian Church,*

*Thank you so much for the food basket sent to my family. It was well received and we appreciate the thoughtfulness that was displayed.*

*Sincerely,  
Kevin & Robin Riggins and family*

*Steve [Randall]*

*Thank you so much for coming and spending the morning helping us organize and get ready for our Farewell to Summer event. I'll send you some signs and could you post at your church and pass out to the other volunteers that have helped out today?*

*Thank you once again.  
Alyssa Jurado*

*Dear Westkirk Family,*

*Thank you to the members of Westkirk who choose to live the words of our Lord. I am living the blessed life the Lord entered me into through the invitation of one of your members at least eight years ago. At that time I was invited to come to a Mother's Day tea for fellowship (and food). I had a very pleasant time with very pleasant people. I left the tea with an invitation to come back for any food function and music function that my job would allow me to attend. I was working overnights at this time in my life, so my sleeping schedule was prohibitive to attend many events, but my interest in Westkirk was established. I was able to attend and even help at the Thanksgiving food event, go to Easter services, on Friday and Sunday.*

*When my husband passed, Westkirk members and staff were there for me. As my work allowed me to be able to attend more than just special events, I became aware of the incredible opportunity the Lord had placed before me. The Stephens Ministry program called to my heart. The Bible study on Sunday before coffee and services brought me hope for finally getting to learn what the Bible had to say to me. With all these wonderful, spirit fulfilling opportunities, all in one setting, I knew Westkirk was the place for my spirit to be fully allowed to start to walk the path God had intended for me.*

*So I took the newcomers class, took the Stephens Ministry course, became a Westkirk member, worked with a care receiver, and went to lunches with the Bagpipers for fellowship and Highlanders for information. The small groups, the fellowship and Bible education helped make my "growing in God" advance to equip me for the situation I am now living.*

*So, Westkirk family, I just wanted to let you know that you have a lot of opportunities to pick from if you just offer them to someone you have come in contact with. They may be someone God is entrusting to you to help them on their way to be closer to Him.*

*Joyfully,  
Lenora Chamberlain*

## **Thank You Notes . . .**

Dear Westkirk Family,

Thank you so much for celebrating our confirmation and listening and guiding us to create our own Statements of Faith.

This was a very special time for both of us and a memory neither of us will ever forget. It was a wonderful day, and we were glad that you were a part of it—all of our family was in our hearts!

Thank you so much for the thoughtful gift.

Love,  
Anna and Molly [Brown]

Dear Westkirk,

Thank you for the money for camp. I had a fun time thanks to you. I got closer to God. I made some friends there. We had chapel two times each day. Some kids gave their hearts to God during camp.

Sincerely,  
Eli Norem

Dear Westkirk,

Thank you for helping to pay for me to go to Twin Lakes Camp.

We started out the day with breakfast and prayer. One day I won the “best bedhead” contest and our cabin got to go to breakfast first. I really liked the zipline and mini golf. Fireside devotions was very cool! Our speaker was so funny. I hope to go again next year.

Nathan Vis

Dear Westkirk,

My experience at camp was awesome! The counselors were awesome! The games were awesome! The water was awesome! The staff was awesome! The chapel was awesome! The food was....no comment.

It was the greatest experience and it was very fun. I learned that what really matters is that if you're a Christian it is not just that you ARE a Christian but that you ACT like one!

Don't ask me if I'm going again next year, KNOW that I am!!!

Micah Mudlaff

Dear Mrs. Admussun

OK, well I had an AWESOME letter.. but the computer lost it. So here's another one for you! I learned the same stuff I learned last year as well as two years ago, like in chapel (which is twice a day, but REALLY fun) we would learn about miracles, about how bad people had worshiped false gods, and then had been proven wrong.

And we would have a two hour free time everyday, where you could go down to the craft hall and make candles or other crafts. Or you could get a snack at the canteen. Or you could go swimming in the lake, it's super fun during free time. Oh! And you can ride an awesome zip-line. And then there's lunch, breakfast, and dinner obviously. And after breakfast everyday there would be cabin clean-up. Then there's the first chapel of the day after that, then it's TAG time, which stands for Time Alone with God. Then there'd be rest time, where if you're still a little cranky from waking up at 7:00 or 7:30, you can catch up on your sleep. Next after that is cabin experience time, where your whole cabin would do something together as free time. Don't worry, you'll still get your own free time later.

But anyways, after that is cabin rotations. And during cabin rotations you and your cabin will be assigned a place to do something inside the campsite, like miniature golf, the rock wall, all sorts of stuff. And I also forgot to mention, free time IS next, but if you go swimming in the lake, you HAVE to HAVE a buddy. 'Cuz they do buddy checks, and if you don't have a buddy, they're going to assume that your buddy has drowned. It's kind of impossible to get to swim in the lake without a buddy anyways. Because they have a card with your name on it and if you don't have a buddy next to you to put their card with yours, you won't be allowed to go through. Also before freetime there is lunch. And after freetime is sorry I messed up, after freetime is nap time. then after that is dinner, then it's chapel time again!!!! And then the whole camp does a game together. And then you do devotions before you go to bed. Then you go to sleep. And then it starts all over! Mwahahahaha!!!!!!

Elizabeth Leonard.

## Thank You Notes . . .

Hey Westkirk,

*Thanks so much for paying some of the money to get me to Twin Lakes Christian Camp.*

*I had a lot of fun using the “funyaks.” I also learned a lot from our speaker dude at fireside. I like going to camp—it’s the best week of summer. I hope to go next year. So thanks a lot Westkirk!!*

*Lindsey Vis*

Dear Mrs. Admussen,

*My camp experience was AMAZING!!! I loved going to the high school level camp. I made tons of new friends, and while there recommitted my faith.*

*I had such a great time. And next year I might even do the s.a.l.t. program, so I could be at camp for a whole month.*

*So thank you and the church for your prayers and support of my way to an awesome week with the Lord!*

*Sincerely,*

*Laura K. Leonard*

Dear Westkirk,

*Thank you for providing some of the money for my church camp fun. While at camp I wanted to change my ways and when I came back home after camp I could tell that I did. The night games were fun and swimming and going on the torpedo was out of this world. I know that God was with me urging me to change and thanks to a little of your help I did. Everything you do for the children and me of the church is a blessing. Now after camp I’m still continuing T.A.G. time (time alone with God) and knowing that every time I do that it helps me to grow closer to God and trust in him through all things. Thank you again for paying part of my camp fee. Thank you!!!!!!*

*Sincerely,*

*Ashley Norem*

### Looking Ahead

Here are some dates to put on your calendar so you won’t miss these special Westkirk events:

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>October 26</b>  | Reformation Sunday/East Wing Dedication and Celebration Dinner |
| <b>November 27</b> | Thanksgiving Dinner at the church                              |
| <b>December 13</b> | Choir Gourmet Dinner and Concert                               |



Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University is coming to Westkirk Presbyterian Church! Learn about what God says about money, how to beat debt, build wealth, and give like never before. The two-hour classes start Thursday, **September 11 at 6:30 p.m.** and conclude on December 11. The 13-week class promises to be a fun, life changing event. God has given us over 800 scripture verses about money, showing us how to handle our finances His way. The Bible has a lot of interesting things to say about money, debt and personal finance. Imagine what the people of God could do with true financial freedom! An introductory meeting and promotional video will take place immediately after church in the Great Hall on **Sunday, September 7** for those seeking more information. Come and invite someone you know who needs the kind of peace that comes from a biblical approach to finances.

The class format includes a DVD presentation by Dave Ramsey and discussion to coincide with homework every week. Each participating family needs to pay \$93 for the material, which includes book, workbook, CDs, special web access, and other goodies. A generous gift has already been received to help defray the cost for any family who wishes to participate, but needs assistance with the cost. **DO NOT LET MONEY KEEP YOU FROM COMING!** Childcare will be available for the first class and a childcare decision will be made at that time for subsequent sessions.

For more information and to register, contact Pastor Michael, Stewardship Chair Chuck Heitbrink, Assistant Treasurer Aaron Pieper or class facilitators and FPU graduates, Mark and Erica Scheve. The Scheves may be reached at 974-5666.

### Did You Lose Something?

In case you are missing an item and have looked almost everywhere, check out the Lost & Found basket on the sign-up table in the Hospitality Room. It just might be there!



## Senior High Student Ministry of Westkirk Presbyterian Church

The good news is the dog days are finally over and beautiful weather and colors and fall are just ahead of us. The bad news, for some of you, is that summer has come to an end and school has begun. Have no fear, *New Life* is here! If you're a high school student, or a parent of one, we want to serve you at *New Life*.

New Life isn't your grandma's youth group, we're serious about doing ministry with and for high schoolers that is fun, biblically solid, and missionally minded! So come and meet new friends, grow in your faith, and spread the gospel of Christ through serving others in our community. For more information, contact Pastor Steve or visit our student ministry website at [newlifeyouth.org/](http://newlifeyouth.org/)

Grace & peace,  
**Pastor Steve**

### Upcoming *New Life* Events in September

- 9/7 *New Life*, 6:30 to 8 p.m. @ Westkirk
- 9/14 Service Project and Worship, 5 to 8 p.m. @ Westkirk
- 9/21 *New Life* on the Lake, Lake Panorama, IA
- 9/28 *New Life*, 6:30 to 8 p.m. @ Westkirk

### WOW Supper Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to prepare our weekly suppers—cooks, clean-up helpers, and dessert makers. For those who cook, there is no pre-planning or shopping to do, complete instructions are there each week. About all cooks need to do is turn on the oven or stovetop and brew coffee. You'll have fun serving your friends and getting acquainted with new folks. Dessert makers bring tasty treats to finish off the meal.

Clean-up is accomplished quickly, too. So, please sign up in the Hospitality Room to take a turn for a Wednesday night, or two, or more!

# Children's Ministry



**Ministry & Mission Week:** BLAST & CLUB 56 kept busy the week of August 11-15. On Monday they made two fleece blankets for Hope Ministries and cre-

ated inspirational cards for congregational members as well as martyred prisoners. Tuesday they cleaned chairs and helped organize a parent resource center at the Hispanic Educational Resource Center. Wednesday they redeemed \$32 worth of recyclables and picked up trash on Colby Woods Drive. Thursday they shared musical and other talents at Calvin Community Center; and



on Friday they put together 15 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to Pam



Brown, Pastor Steve and all the children who participated!

**WOW Balloon Launch:** WOW will begin **Wednesday, September 3** with dinner at 5:45 p.m. in the Great Hall 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 preschool through third grade will meet with Nancy Schmidt for the Jesus Expedition in the new wing. Fourth through sixth graders will take a closer look at the Armor of God by going through Boot Camp with Jerry & Sandy Tuinstra. Seventh through ninth graders will carpool to Urban Heights Evangelical Church and have a BLAST (Believing, Laughing, and Studying the Truth).



## Ahoy, Mateys!

During the week of July 27 - 31, the SS Westkirk hosted "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything" - a VeggieTales VBS. A ship full of scalawags looking to go on the account arrived Sunday night in order to become God's heroes. And what an adventure we had!! Some 75 kids put on their sea legs, donned their pirate headbands, and praised God through song, Bible story, craft, and game. Kids brought friends, and their friends brought friends; all for sharing in the fun and joy of VBS. We combined forces with Urban Heights Evangelical Covenant Church, with over 40 staff members and lots of parental support. Many people offered behind-the-scenes support as well, and for that we give thanks.

Our missions project was raising money for Back2Back Ministries, in Monterrey Mexico. Our own Rus and Julie Norem will be leading a group in November to go and give physical support to this wonderful ministry that gives a home and education to orphans in Mexico and surrounding countries. Our kids brought \$519 in coins over the course of the whole week to go to this ministry! Isn't that amazing!

Each night our kids sang and learned Philippians 4:13 with Sasha Mudlaff, who had them welcomed and energized in the Opening Yo Ho Ho Show. They were entertained by Pastors Michael and Steve (aka Bumpo and Bones) in a skit that presented the night's theme. During closing each night, kids saw photos of themselves in a slide show created by Carolyn Eyerly.

From there, wonderful guides (called Shipmates) brought the kids through three rotations. Clapping Rock Crafts with Captain Flapjack (Hugh Sheppard) and Julie Norem was where they made treasure bags, pirate headbands, treasure chests and maps, and messages in a bottle. Our littlest pirates also went to Discovery Bay, an exploration hands-on station run by Barb West. Next was Whipcrack Island Games with Donna and Kimberly Moothart where kids learned pirate drills, tested their skills with a parachute sail, and hunted for clues in a Bible Verse treasure hunt. Kids listened attentively in Spyglass Bible Theater with Pat Drolich and Jerry Tuinstra where they heard eyewitness accounts of the burning bush, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's test in the fiery furnace, Jesus walking on the water, and Paul's shipwreck.

Awesome Helpers for these stations were: Jill Curry, Lindsey Vis, Will Admussen, Christian Fox, Landon Miller, Elizabeth Leonard, Megan McNulty, Jake West, Wes Hall, Keith and Danny Sheppard.

Our Shipmates kept the kids on schedule and joined in the fun. Shipmates were: Joy Dauterive, Ashley Norem, Sherie Whitehead, Madeline Heer, Erica Scheve, Mallory Wickemeyer, Sarah Sharp, Alisia Bone, Jodi Pieper, Courtney Willets, Peggy Brady, Becca Moothart, Cindy Lanham, Renee Lanham, Tina Williams, Aubrey Alshouse, Kathy Neal, Connor Neal, Cameron Neal, Madeline Hall, Darlene Reighard, and Dawn Vis.

We couldn't do VBS without: Larry Whitehead (sound system), Pastor James Curry (closing prayer), Karen Admussen (registration, substitute, Bible Story set design), Rachel Heer, Amanda Carlson, and Anna Admussen (nursery), Carolyn Eyerly (photographer), Benae Duff and Somer Gillett (snacks), Beth and Bruce Rydberg and Kay Cunitz (registration), and our decorations crew of Mark Dauterive, Lee Turnbull, Kurt Huyser, Gwen Lutke, Gloria Stewart, Kevin Heer, Madeline Heer, and Hugh Sheppard. Parent helpers included Kevin Bone, Brian Dixon, Sarah Brumfield, and Vicki Bone. Friends who donated supplies or time in preparing crafts/snacks were: Barb Springer, Bette Jones, Kay Cunitz, Mary Lou Younkin, Somer Gillet, Rachel Heer, Sherie Whitehead, Shari Walkup, Pat Drolich, Patti Littschwager, Anna Admussen, and Sandy Tuinstra. And, thank you to anyone we missed or who prayed for VBS - what a wonderful week we had!!

Blessings,  
Gloria Huyser, Director  
Karen Admussen, Sherie Whitehead,  
Sasha Mudlaff, Barb West, and Rachel Heer





## Stephen Ministry Continues

The ministry of lay Christian caregivers among us has been going on for over a year now. We thank God that he has given us the gift of these people. After having completed the Stephen Series training, our Stephen Ministers are now putting their skills and compassion to work, caring for people in our congregation. Perhaps you should give some thought to becoming a Stephen Minister.

Since we have begun using the Stephen Series here at Westkirk Presbyterian Church, we have seen the great value of lay caring ministry. Another training class for Stephen Ministers begins later this month. Give serious consideration to this question: "Would my gifts and talents be put to good use as a Stephen Minister?" To find out more, contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Karen Breeding, Carolyn Eyerly, Rick Eyerly, Pastor Michael Mudlaff, or Elly Smith.



## Welcome, New Members

What a joy on August 17 to receive into Westkirk membership the following friends who had attended Explorers class, met with Elders and made a Profession of Faith in Jesus Christ:

### **Paul & Donna Nelson**

4140 100<sup>th</sup> St., #3  
 Urbandale, IA 50322  
 Phone: 480-4976

### **Bryan & Sarah Sharp**

303 4<sup>th</sup> St., SE  
 Altoona, IA 50009  
 Phone: 554-2936  
[bs.sharp@mchsi.com](mailto:bs.sharp@mchsi.com)

### **Scott & Amy Withers**

71<sup>st</sup> Street  
 Urbandale, IA 50322  
 Phone: 401-9975  
[witherescott@hotmail.com](mailto:witherescott@hotmail.com)

If you did not have a chance to greet them on New Member Sunday, be sure to introduce yourself the next time you see them. Watch for their photos in the next issue of the Shepherd.

## ***The Shepherd***

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Michael Mudlaff, Steve Randall

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Dan & Jan Geisler  
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Bob Schmadeke, Genevieve Stogdill  
Joan Thompson

## ***Staff of Westkirk***

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**Assistant Pastor** - Steven Randall  
**Administrative Assistant** - Elaine Hurst  
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**First Ladies**  
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Darlene Reighard, Myra Verros, Mary Lu Younkin



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