

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 23 No. 11 November 2008

Reflecting on the Reformation

As usual, Reformation Sunday was a great day of reflection, thanksgiving, appreciation, and worship to our God. Now that it has come and gone for another year, I have been reflecting on the Reformation. In the Wednesday night Pastor's class, we have taken a break from our usual Bible study to read a book together called, Assured By God. Recently, we read the chapter by Philip Graham Ryken, senior minister at Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia – one of our nation's leading Presbyterian churches.

In this chapter, entitled, Assured from Beginning to End, Ryken beautifully reminds us that our biblical mandate to 'work out our salvation with fear and trembling,' causes us to seek out assurance of our salvation – and that assurance is founded in God's wonderful doctrine of predestination. What is that again? Isn't it a dirty word? Absolutely not! Predestination is God's sovereign decision, in eternity past, in regards to the final destiny of individual sinners. And as Ryken so cleverly put it, the implication of predestination is that, 'God's grace is God's choice.' That choice, of course, is what we call, 'election.' And without it, none of us would come to faith! But more importantly, God's divine election proves that without a shadow of doubt, salvation is by grace alone! It's not about us – it's about God. And he deserves the glory!

So as you reflect on the Reformation, the question is, 'Are you elect?' Well, Paul says that the guarantee of our election is the seal of the Holy Spirit that comes to us like a deposit. We have the promise of a reward that we will not receive in entirety until we take full possession of it in the future. But it is not an empty promise because God has already made the first payment on our behalf – he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to live a perfect life and then die in our place to pay the penalty we owe for our sin. And the elect are already experiencing the benefits of being his adopted children. We have the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives right now – convicting us of sin, giving us faith, persuading us that God's Word is true, helping us grow in grace, and making us fruitful in ministry. Are you elect? Well, Ryken says, '...if the Spirit is doing any of these things at all – then no matter how much we are struggling in the Christian life, we have God's seal of our eternal salvation.' Take that deposit to the bank!

Pastor Michael



^{ESV} Ephesians 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.



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
Jerry Tuinstra
Melinda Turnbull

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Assistant Treasurer - Aaron Pieper

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

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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 Mirium Alshouse
 - 2 Hugh Sheppard
 - 3 *Matthew Brown
 - 4 Max Asman
 - 5 Lee Gorman
 - 5 *Brooke Sonnichsen
 - 6 Ron Long
 - 6 Kristin Thompson
 - 6 *Kolton Louk
 - 7 *Landon Miller
 - 8 Steve Brown
 - 8 Emma Rogers
 - 10 Brad Millis
 - 10 *Aaron Reed
 - 11 *Sam Turnbull
 - 12 *Kenneth Doyle
 - 14 Pat Alshouse
 - 14 Ken Phillips
 - 16 Chris Admussen
 - 16 Bruce Beals
 - 17 *Shelby Meza
 - 19 *Lily Barron
 - 20 Norma Chapman
 - 20 Matthew Thompson
 - 21 *Kathleen Welsher
 - 22 Jan Geisler
 - 22 Ryan Glanzer
 - 22 Bette Jones
 - 24 *Tanner Dake
 - 24 Deb Liljedahl
 - 26 Amanda Carlson
 - 26 Fran Nugteren
 - 27 Kate Anderson
 - 28 *Keith Primrose
 - 28 Dean Teeter
 - 30 Sean Glanzer
 - 30 *Autumn Sheppard
- *Youth Member



- 1 Terry & Kristin Thompson
- 13 John & Debbie Frondle
- 17 Clarence & Winnie Adden
- 21 Gary & Dianne Glanzer
- 27 Darrell & Linda Aldrich
- 27 Lee & Melinda Turnbull

Thank You Notes . . .

Michael & Westkirk Family,

I deeply appreciate all the kindness shown me from our Westkirk Family.

Betty Reedquist

Dear Westkirk Deacons,

Dianne Glanzer brought me a beautiful Peace Plant right after my surgery at Methodist Hospital. It has a half dozen blooms and is so healthy.

She and Gary have had Don at their home during my hospitalization and recuperation at the Life Center. It has certainly been a relief to have him there.

Many from the congregation have visited me at the Life Center and everyone has been most welcome. Pastor Michael has visited me at the hospital and the Life Center. Each visit was so appreciated.

The prayer shawl Dianne brought me from the Deacons that the Prayer Shawl group has made has meant so much to me, especially since I am a member of the group.

*Thank you again,
Nylene Dory*

New Address

Harriet Crouch

13731 Hickman Rd., #22
Urbandale, IA 50323
Phone: 331-9654



The Bulletin Board

November Activities – See related articles in this issue.

Sunday	11/2	Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
Monday	11/3	Commissions meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	11/4	Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff), 9:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	11/5	WOW, supper 5:45 p.m.; Alpha, Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.; Choir, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	11/6	Financial Peace University, 6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Yentes) 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	11/8	Session Retreat * * * * *
Sunday	11/9	Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; Worship Service/Communion, 10:30 a.m. Sunday Night at the Kirk, 6:30 p.m.
Monday	11/10	Stephen Ministry training, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	11/11	Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff), 9:00 a.m. New Light meeting, 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	11/12	WOW, supper 5:45 p.m.; Alpha, Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.; Choir, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	11/13	Dorcas Circle, 1:00 p.m. Financial Peace University, 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Yentes) 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	11/15	Articles for December Shepherd due * * * * *
Sunday	11/16	Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. New Members received/Luncheon
Monday	11/17	Session/Deacons Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry training, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	11/18	Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff), 9:00 a.m. Bagpipers Luncheon, 1:00 p.m., Macaroni Grill Stephen Ministry training, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	11/19	WOW, supper 5:45 p.m.; Alpha, Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.; Choir, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	11/20	Financial Peace University, 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Yentes) 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	11/22	Parents Night Out, 5:00-8:00 p.m. * * * * *
Sunday	11/23	Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; Thanksgiving Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.; Covenant Sunday Greening of the Kirk, 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday	11/25	Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff), 9:00 a.m. The Clan (HouseKirk), 1:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry training, 6:30 p.m. New Light meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	11/26	No WOW; Choir, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	11/27	Westkirk Family Thanksgiving Dinner, Noon * * * * *
Sunday	11/30	Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. First Sunday in Advent



DMARC Food Pantry Collection on November 16

The best way to help this ministry is by donating money so that the Food Pantry can purchase items that they need at wholesale prices. Please make your check payable to **Westkirk** and indicate it is for **Food Pantry**. (You can simply put your check in the collection plate along with your normal offering.)



However, if you choose to donate food items, the Deacons will be distributing grocery sacks on November 2 and November 9 after the worship service. Please refer to the list of items that is attached to the sack when making your donation.

All donations (monetary or food items) will be collected on or before November 16. Thank you for continuing to help feed the hungry by supporting this ministry.

... *Dianne Glanzer*

Men's Fraternity

Westkirk's men's group meets to discover authentic manhood! Join the group on Monday mornings at 6:30 a.m. The meeting place is Stadia Sports Medicine, 6000 University, West Des Moines, Suite 250. **Chad Carlson** is the host. For more information, e-mail ccarlson@stadiasportsmedicine.com and check out www.mensfraternity.com.

Dorcas Circle

Thursday, November 13 all ladies of the church and their guests are invited to come to Dorcas Circle at 1:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room. **Linda Aldrich** will be leading us in a faith lesson called "First Fruits" from the DVD series *Faith Lessons of the Promised Land: Crossroads of the World*. Dessert and beverages will be provided by **Elly Smith and Lou Heitbrink**. Please join us for faith, food, and fellowship.

If you wish, you may also bring items to fill Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. We will help the Mission Commission in their effort to have as many boxes for this ministry as we had last year.

Greening of the Kirk

Westkirk has a tradition regarding Advent. This is the time of the year when we decorate the church for Christmas to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Sunday, November 23 has been set as the date for the Greening of the Kirk. The Congregation is invited to help with the event. This year the task will be greater since we have more areas to decorate, including the new wing.

Please come and join in the fun and meet with many members and friends of Westkirk. This has always been a good "get-acquainted" event. The materials are all provided—we just need "helpers" to decorate the church. There is no age limit—young and old are invited to help out with this project.

We will gather in the narthex at **2:30 p.m. on the 23rd**. Trees and decorations will be located in various areas of the church. If we have a lot of "helpers," the project should not take too long, maybe an hour.

See you on the 23rd! If you have any questions or comments, please call **Audrene Hansen (243 1679)**.



Stewardship Report

The month of September was another positive month for the financial ministry at Westkirk. Giving exceeded our expenses by \$699.64 Year-to-date we are tracking to meet our planned budget and our year-to-date giving has exceeded our expenses by \$10,256.63.

The recent turn in the financial markets is a time to remember and thank God for the many blessings He has provided. As we prepare for the final quarter of 2008, we must continue to focus on these blessings and not be distracted by the world. God has a plan for this ministry and each and every one of us is a part of that plan. Now is not the time to change our financial strategy or direction. We are often reminded that when we “give” we are more like Jesus!

... *Chuck Heitbrink, Stewardship Commission*

Thanksgiving Dinner at the Kirk

Thanksgiving Day is **November 27** and once again you are invited to attend the Westkirk Family Thanksgiving dinner at noon that day. Whether you are a family of one or of many, all are welcome to share the warmth of family and friends.

Larry Kussatz and Chuck Heitbrink are planning a delicious feast with all the traditional favorites (including their famous cornbread dressing). Larry and Chuck want to make sure no one spends this special



day at home alone. Reservations are helpful for planning, so please sign up in the Hospitality Room.

Bring your family or a friend and enjoy the fellowship. There will even be leftovers to take home! No tickets are sold for this event, but a free-will offering will benefit the Music Department's outreach ministry.

Covenant Sunday

Covenant Sunday is scheduled for **November 23**. This is the Sunday when we will make our financial commitment to the 2009 ministry of Westkirk. In early November you will receive a letter from the Stewardship Commission outlining general plans for 2009. It is critical that every member complete their pledge for next year.

Members will have the opportunity to come forward and submit their pledge during the worship service on the 23rd. If you would like to mail in your pledge, we ask that it arrive on or before Monday, November 24. It is very important that each member prayerfully consider the gifts they will pledge for next year. In your pledge, remember that this *does not* include any previously pledged amounts for the new wing or additional gifts for that project.

Also, please remember that, as in the past, your commitment is only known to the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and God. No members of the staff or Session are privy to your individual commitment.

Thank you for your faithfulness and your continued support of the ministry at Westkirk.

... *Chuck Heitbrink, Stewardship Commission Chair*

Please Wear Your Name Badge

Now that construction is over, the racks for name badges have been installed under the west stairs.

Westkirk supplies name badges for all members to wear at worship. This really helps our newer members and friends learn your name. It also helps some of us who have a little trouble remembering names!

In the event you cannot locate your name badge, please notify the church office so a new one may be made for you.



Reformation Sunday at Westkirk





Serve the Lord with Gladness . . .

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)



Praise and give thanks to God for our mission team who leave on November 6 for Back2Back Ministries in Monterey, Mexico. Greg and Cathy Huffer are planning many activities for them at the orphanages and around the city. We have ten people going from Westkirk: **Pam Brown, Monica Brown, Steve Brown, Anna Brown, David Lanham, Sasha Mudlaff, Jonah Mudlaff, Julie Norem, Ashley Norem, Eli Norem.** In addition, there are two from Urban Heights E. C. Church: Jill Curry and Holly Empey. Keep them in your prayers while they are there and during their travels.

Give thanks for **Gary De Graaf** of Greater Europe Mission, and the church planted in Tours, France. They have just dedicated their meeting place and are having about 65 in attendance, which nearly fills their space. Pray they will receive God's blessing as they witness for Him. Praise the Lord for **Jonathan and Becky Schuster** of Greater Europe Mission, in Skerries, Ireland. They have requested the school board there for permission to hold their church services in a new school building. Their Bible study group has grown and the result is the formation of a new church. Continue to pray they will be a light in the community for the Lord. Give thanks that **Jessica Duff** with Wycliffe Bible Translators is well recovered from malaria, and her knee is also recovering. She has been planning more translation training camps, working with several language groups for Bible translation. Praise God for the **Casa Joseph girls and teacher Catrina** who presented a program at Golgatha Church in Stei. This church has reached out to these orphan girls and promised to pray for them. Pray that other Romanian churches would also do this. Pray for the **Lucacius** with REMM, as they continue to minister to the needs of these orphans and others in Romania.

Give thanks that Westkirk has had many donations of warm clothes and accessories from our members for **HOPE Ministries**. Pray for HOPE as they prepare to serve many at their annual Thanksgiving dinner. Many thanks to those in our congregation who have donated furniture to **Ruth Harbor** for the young mothers as they work through pregnancy and motherhood. We look forward to the upcoming Banquet on the 13th. If there are any who would be interested in attending, please see **Cynthia Fisher**.

Praise God for the ministries of **Campus Crusade and Navigators** as they reach out to college students, international and local. This is a time that students are searching for meaning in their lives, and the **Schmeidels, Straits, Hannemans, and Eggerts** are right in the middle of it all. May the Lord work through them and bring many students to the Lord, and prepare them to serve Him in the ministry to other students on their campuses.

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 members. They are, George & Gail De Graaf, Cynthia Fisher, Somer Gillett, Dan Marvin, Rus & Julie Norem, Wendy Reed, Jerry & Diane Skinner, Alvin & Lois Lundgren Stecker, Larry & Sherie Whitehead.

. . . George De Graaf, Chair

Two Holiday Events—One Day December 6, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

COOKIE SHOP

Westkirk will hold the third annual Cookie Walk in the Great Hall. For those wishing to bake cookies, there is a sign-up sheet in the Hospitality Room. A donation of a few dozen of each kind of cookie you bake is requested.

Help is also needed on the day of the sale. If you can volunteer or have questions, please contact Nyleve Taylor (314-3252) or Regi Donaldson (276-6263). This event will be a fundraiser for the Westkirk youth.

CHRISTMAS STORE

A sale of pre-owned Christmas items will be held in the Hospitality Room. This is a fundraiser for the Deacons to help them help others.

Please bring your no-longer-wanted Christmas items to the church on Friday, December 5 between 5:00-8:00 p.m. On Saturday, the 6th, stop in and see some other nice items you can't leave behind.

You may contact any Deacon for additional information.



Poinsettias

This seems early to be thinking about it, but this year we will be asking for help from the congregation to purchase poinsettias for our sanctuary. As you will recall, we used only artificial plants last year due to the construction work going on at church.

A little history. Poinsettias are ordered by members and friends of Westkirk to use to decorate the sanctuary. Our tradition has always been that the poinsettias may be taken home from church following the Christmas Eve service or the following Sunday on the 28th.

As in the past, the poinsettias will be ordered from Homestead at Pleasant Hill. This is an autistic facility. The residents of Homestead care for the plants as a project. Order forms will be inserted in the weekly bulletin in mid-November. There will be information as to size of plant and color that you wish to order along with price. The poinsettia(s) can be given in honor of a family member, friend, organization, or in memory of a loved one.

If you have any questions, please call **Audrene Hansen at 234 -1679.**

Tickets Going Fast!

Sales of the **Christmas Dinner/Concert** tickets have been lively. If you are planning to attend the **December 13** event, please buy your tickets promptly because seating is limited. Prices for the gourmet dinner and concert are the same as last year:

- Skewered grilled shrimp with fruit salsa.....* \$20
- Stuffed chicken breast in puff pastry.....* \$20
- Beef tenderloin with Madeira wine sauce.....* \$24

This is a special fundraising event by the Music Department for outreach ministry. Tickets are available before and after worship at the Welcome Center or by contacting Lou Heitbrink.



Director of Music Larry Kussatz and the Westkirk Choir promise you a very festive and entertaining evening. If you need transportation to this event, please request it when you purchase tickets.

October 26 a Day of Celebration!

Reformation Sunday is always a great family day at Westkirk, but this year we rejoiced when we celebrated our 16th year at this location and dedicated the final phase of the Westkirk Campus, honored our Charter Members and greeted friends from far and near.

Our thanks to all who helped prepare the special worship service and the beautiful music. Then there were those who cleaned, scrubbed, painted, polished, put away, hung pictures and clocks, organized book shelves, constructed walls, put down carpet, did electrical work, remodeled a bathroom, etc., etc. in the building, and planted bushes and flowers, trimmed trees, etc. to spruce up the rest of the campus. And thank you, also, to those who volunteered for the celebration meal—to set tables, cook, bake, serve, and help out on the clean-up crew. A great cooperative effort!

The fellowship at such events truly enriches the lives of our entire church family. Glory Be to God!

BOOK REVIEW

The Fine Art of Friendship

By **Ted W. Ingstrom with Robert C. Larson**

Do you have a friend? Many friends? Are you considered a friend by others? A big question is “Do you want to be a friend?”

Most of us are so self-absorbed that when talking to friends or acquaintances we are not listening but thinking about what we want to say next. This book spells out 10 ways to develop beautiful and meaningful friendships. In ways that are so simple one wonders, “Why didn’t I think of that?”

Lesson 5 is especially helpful: “Simply be there to care, whether you know exactly what to do or not.” Learning to put others before yourself and taking the time to really learn about their needs and emphasizing their good points is a very valuable lesson. As the book points out, by giving you receive so much more. Read it and learn how to develop new friendships and enhance the ones you already cherish. . . . *Reviewed by Sally Harrison*



During this Thanksgiving season, we have much to be thankful for as a church family. I know for sure that the youth are very thankful to have a place to call their own within our church walls. After weeks of rushing down to the basement each Sunday morning to see if any progress had been made on “their place,” the youth room has been completed and the kids are very excited. Of course, the new youth room will be a place for several ministries to share, but the middle schoolers and high schoolers are very excited to have a place to call their own.

We want to thank everyone who put in many hours, in some cases a few hundred hours, of hard work to make the youth room such an exciting place. While each and every member of the Westkirk family helped make the youth room a possibility, we would like to thank the following people for donating their time and talents to the construction effort:

Hugh Sheppard	Kirk Yentes
Eric Wickemeyer	Rick Eyerly
Olivia Eyerly	John Chenowith
Charlie Millis	Brad Millis
Craig Van Gundy	Larry Whitehead
Trent Vis	Alex Stanbrough

Each of these people sacrificed several weekends and evenings to help make the youth room a special place for our young people, so if you see them, please help us thank them for their hard work and willingness to serve our church and our King!

. . . *Pastor Steve Randall*

Upcoming Senior High Events

- 11/2 New Life/Mystery Party, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Westkirk Youth Room
- 11/9 Sunday Night at the Kirk, 5:00-8:00 p.m., Westkirk
- 11/16 New Life, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Westkirk Youth Room
- 11/23 Thanksgiving – No New Life
- 11/30 New Life, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Westkirk Youth Room

Children's Ministry

By now most of the leaves have fallen off the trees. The temperatures are getting colder. There is a change in the air. Not just outside, but in our hearts as well. November is a time to look inward, to be thankful, and to prepare for the Christmas season. As we look forward to Advent at the end of the month, we also look back at the good times we had in October trying to find our way through the corn maze at Geisler Farms on Family Fun Night, competing to win an Amazing Race, celebrating Reformation Sunday and playing Clue for prizes during WOW in October. Let's continue to Know Christ and Make Him Known in all that we do! Here are this month's highlights:

Kids of the Kingdom: For the month of November children age 3-Kindergarten will be dismissed from church directly after the announcements so that they can learn a Christmas song which they will sing on Sunday, December 7 during worship.

WOW: On Wednesday nights the children will be busy learning more about God's armor, Jesus' Miracles, and other Bible stories in addition to working on their Christmas program which will be on Wednesday, December 10.

BLAST: "Teach Me Your Way" is the name of the curriculum written by John Piper that the junior high students are studying on Wednesday nights (and working on their journals at home). On Wednesday, November 19 and Wednesday, December 3 the 7th-9th graders will be meeting at Westkirk instead of Urban Heights to work on the Christmas program.

Up All Night Blitz: On November 7-8, 6th-9th graders will be attending the most exciting junior high event in Des Moines sponsored by Valley Church! They will be joining students from around the metro area from 8 p.m.-8 a.m. There will be live music, bowling, ice skating, rock climbing, roller skating, pizza and mid-morning madness (inflatable games, video games, table tennis, foosball, gospel presentation, and door prizes).

Parent's Night Out: Saturday, November 22 is a chance for couples to spend quality time together without the children. Bring the children to church anytime between 5:00-8:00 p.m. and there will be an evening of fun for the children while you and your spouse go on a date. Dinner, games, a Veggie Tale movie and snacks will be provided for children from infants to preteens. The nursery is available for babies and toddlers. There is no fee for this event, but donations are accepted to help send our children and youth to camp next summer. Please sign up in the Hospitality Room or contact **Karen Admussen** so we can plan accordingly.

New Light Is a Safe Place

We are very blessed at Westkirk to have a depression support group that meets twice a month to help us deal with our depression and anxiety issues. The group is called New Light because our goal is to move from the dark place of despair into the light of hope. As Christians, we know that our ultimate source of comfort and hope comes from our faith in Jesus Christ. However, it is imperative that we be reminded of this hope by sharing our feelings with other Christians who have had similar experiences. Some of us in the group who have been to that dark valley of despair and recovered are able to give encouragement to others.

If you have depression or an anxiety disorder, or are a caregiver to someone who is suffering, I encourage you to come to our meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday nights of each month. Please be assured that you will feel no pressure to say or discuss anything at the meeting. If you just want to sit there and absorb information - that is totally up to you! Most important of all, I want you to feel comfortable in knowing that our New Light group is a safe place where you can share your feelings with others who will understand and appreciate what you are going through. Please join us!

. . . *Dianne Glanzer*

The Shepherd

Communication Organ of
Westkirk Presbyterian Church
2700 Colby Woods Drive, Urbandale, Iowa 50322
Phone: 515/253-0330
e-mail: westkirk@westkirk.org

Managing Editor - Lou Heitbrink
Assistant Managing Editor - Kelli Miller

Contributing Editors

Karen Admussen
Carolyn Chenoweth
Regi Donaldson
George and Gail De Graaf
Dianne Glanzer
Audrene Hansen
Sally Harrison
Helen Main
Michael Mudlaff, Steve Randall

Production Staff

Dan & Jan Geisler
Chuck Heitbrink, Fran Nugteren
Bob Schmadeke, Genevieve Stogdill
Joan Thompson

Staff of Westkirk

Pastor - Michael Mudlaff
Assistant Pastor - Steven Randall
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Accompanist - Dianne Glanzer
Youth Coordinator - Hugh Sheppard
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2700 Colby Woods Drive
Urbandale, Iowa 50322
Phone: 515-253-0330
Fax: 515-253-0596

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