

Biblical Storytelling

Around the beginning of August, I attended the Network of Biblical Storytellers annual festival gathering (conference) in North Carolina. I had never before been amongst this group of people and wasn't entirely sure what to expect. There were roughly 300 people who had gathered from across the US, as well as several Canadians and Australians. I was specifically invited to lead all the music for the four worship services that would occur while we were there—songs in the style of the paperless music that we've done a bit of in our own congregation or while worshipping on the baseball diamond.

The participants came from a wide range of Christian denominations, from Baptists to Catholics. I stood before them on Wednesday morning to teach the very first song. "Would they sing?" I wondered. And sing they did. Some of them had never sung in this way, but the spirit was definitely present in that place. Everyone participated fully in the singing, meditation, and experimentation of worship that occurred there.

Now, this group of folks was no ordinary group of folks. They were storytellers. When I was ordained five years ago, the assisting minister completely memorized one of the scripture readings and told it (from memory) as a storyteller would. Here, at this festival gathering, there was an entire group of folks that did this, and many on a regular basis. Some were pastors, but the vast majority were simply people who appreciated the depth and breadth of our sacred biblical stories. Spread across two evenings, with the help of about two dozen people, the entire gospel of Matthew was recited from memory.

At some point during my education, I learned that "every reading is an interpretation." It's something I've taken to heart and it's one of the reasons why I'll sometimes ask for different people to read the same passage of scripture multiple times in bible study. Different people typically accent different words and place different emphasis and weight on different parts of a sentence. When that happens, our minds pay attention to different themes and phrases, sometimes ones that we had never heard before (or may have forgotten about).

We're very fortunate at Wiota to have a host of good assisting ministers who will practice the scripture readings ahead of time by reading them out loud and becoming familiar with them, prior to reading them in worship. This isn't always the case in some other churches. Sometimes the readings read during worship, are read in a clumsy way. The reader might trip over some of the words, usually because they didn't look at the reading ahead of time. Sometimes the reader reads with an almost monotone voice that might be described as flat, boring, or dull.

The founder of the Network of Biblical Storytellers commented on this poor proclamation/reading of scripture during worship. He said: *"We need to be done with treating the public reading of Scripture as a 'dead time' in our weekly Christian worship. We would never mumble through William Shakespeare or Maya Angelou in the same way. We would never treat any other piece of poetry, story, or literature with the same amount of indifference that we do with the Bible, every week. It's an abomination, what we do with the living Word of God."* —Tom Boomershine

This festival gathering reawakened me, once again, to the importance of reading "with feeling" (as my drama teacher used to say). We believe that God is alive and active in and throughout the world, still today. And we believe that the Bible is the LIVING Word of God. I hope and encourage you to find renewed life in the words of scripture as you read your Bible. Perhaps you'll even try reading out loud to yourself. The words are beautiful, they are poetic. It's really an amazing and wonderful story, and we're part of it.

With every hope and prayer, I remain faithfully,
Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Luke

Highlights from the August Council Meeting

- A special committee is being developed to assess and prioritize the needs of the East Church building.
- The plans and development of WOW is well underway.
- Sunday morning worship time will remain as 9:30am.
- The A/V equipment installation is nearly complete.
- Our congregation will join hundreds of other ELCA congregations in celebrating "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday on September 7th.
- The church website is almost ready to go live.
- Wiota's 2nd Harvest Ball is scheduled for the evening of October 18th.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is a synod-wide date that will be on Sunday, September 7th this year. There are a few projects around the church that we will be taking care of (some inside and some outside). Join us after church to lend a hand! If you are considering helping outside, bring a change of clothes and your garden gloves and tools along!

Bold Café Gals Meeting

The next Bold Café Gals Meeting will take place Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30pm.



Community Garden

Our community garden is in full bloom and very bountiful. If you are in need of some extra veggies, would like to help tend the garden, or take produce to some of our homebound members, please contact Sandy Seffrood, Courtney Bocklund, or Chris Meyer.



Photo Directory

Did you miss having your picture taken? Was your family too busy or travelling in July? You have one more chance to make it into the directory! The photographers will be taking pictures again on Friday, September 5th from 12 NOON to 7:00pm and on Saturday, September 6th from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Schedule your appointment before/after worship, or schedule online at <https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/wiotalutheran/index.php?page=10>. If you have any questions, please call Sandy Seffrood at home 439-2697 or 608-293-0386 cell.

Harvest Ball

Remember how much fun we had last year at the Harvest Ball? We ate tons of soup and chili, painted children's faces, went on hay rides, bobbed for apples, and danced the night away. Mark your calendars and plan to join us this year for a night of fun and laughter.

When: October 18th

Where: Wiota Church

Why: To celebrate the harvest and enjoy one another's company.

New Website

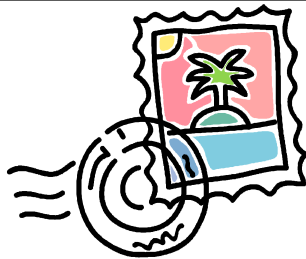
Wiota Lutheran Church has a brand new website. It will go live on September 2nd!! Check it out: www.WiotaLutheranChurch.org

Several hours have been spent writing the content and working on the design. If you have comments or suggestions, please talk to Pastor Luke.



Stamps

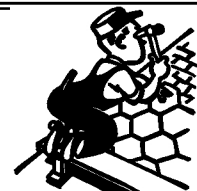
Please save your cancelled stamps and give to Ancil Norland. Please trim 1/2" around the perforation of the stamp.



In our prayers: Karen Noble, Carol Broge, Shirley Johnson, Clare Pehl, Spence Seffrood, and our homebound members.
Also in our prayers: Leona Reed, LuAnn Komprood, Dorothy Wicklund, Delbert Shager, Barb Dinges, Mark Reilly, David Gertsch, Jaden Goninen, Nick Saataff, Jayne Kent, Judy Fernstaedt, Tom Garvey, Ruth Vosberg, and Mindy Bocklund.

Parsonage Roof

Over \$2,500 has been raised for the parsonage roof. Help us reach our goal of \$4,800 so that we can reroof the south side before winter. Help us keep our properties in excellent condition.



www.WiotaLutheranChurch.org

Check it out on September 2nd!!!

WOW!!!

Are you interested in experiencing a different way of worshipping? Come experience a night of WOW (Worship On Wednesdays) starting on September 10th at 6:30pm!!! Each night of WOW includes an education hour for children and adults of all ages. WOW will take the place of Sunday School. WOW will also include confirmation instruction and is required for all confirmation students.

We are working to create an experience that involves fellowship, worship and education for families and people of all ages, in a way that is interactive, relevant, and engaging for all.

Each night of WOW will proceed in the following manner:

6:30pm—We share a meal together.

7:00pm—Worship that is interactive, lively and "out-of-the-box."

7:40pm—Education hour related to the scripture texts and themes heard in worship. (For this hour, we will divide into groups that include children under age 5, students grades K-5, confirmation (6th-8th grade), high school, adult men's group, adult women's group.)

8:40pm—Closing with a final prayer, song, and blessing.

8:45pm—We go home.

On some of the evenings, during the education hour, we will work together on service projects and other large group community-building activities.

Come experience a night of WOW! If you have younger children, stay as long as you can and leave when you need to. WOW!!! It's going to be great!!!



September Birthdays



July Treasurer's Report

- 1 Richard Larson
 - 3 David Eames
 - 4 Christopher Neuschwander
 - 7 Wayne Wilson
 - 12 Joyce Ness
 - 13 Howard Gilbertson
 - 13 Ryan Rygh
 - 16 Carol Olson
 - 16 Deante Seals
 - 17 Bret Trame
 - 18 Sue Nethery
 - 19 Dennis Wells
 - 20 Kia Hendrickson
 - 20 Sara Thoreson
 - 21 Judi Schmitz
 - 21 Jean Gille
 - 21 Tim Pehl
 - 21 Levi Owens
 - 21 Mia Breadon
 - 22 Tim Shager
 - 24 Josie Thomas
 - 24 Darrien DeNure
 - 27 Sue Buetzer
 - 28 Roby Lyn Beranek Jr.
 - 28 Lucas Graham
 - 29 Ruth Ann Peterson
 - 29 Makayla Ruegsegger
 - 30 Zachary Jansen
 - 30 Vicky Stull
- Please let us know of any birthdays we may have missed.

Balance 6/30/2014			\$ 106.93
Income:			
07/01/2014	Simply Giving	41010 · Weekly Offerings	300.00
07/06/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	1,373.00
07/13/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	2,574.00
07/15/2014	Simply Giving	41010 · Weekly Offerings	20.00
07/16/2014	Wednesday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	742.00
07/20/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	442.00
07/27/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	2,043.00
Total Income			\$ 7,494.00
Expenses:			
07/01/2014	Curran's Drain Cleaning	64130 · R&M East	35.00
07/13/2014	Luke Smetters	61010 · Pastor Base Salary	1,582.67
07/13/2014	Luke Smetters	61020 · Pastor's FICA-Church Share	156.46
07/13/2014	Church Mutual	64300 · Insurance Expense	545.30
07/13/2014	Connie Bocklund	64410 · Cleaning Supplies	26.00
07/15/2014	Vanco Services E-Service	63020 · Postage/Copier/Office Suppli	0.80
07/27/2014	Connie Bocklund	61110 · Custodian	308.22
07/27/2014	Brooke Ames	61120 · Office Secretary	323.22
07/27/2014	Luke Smetters	61010 · Pastor Base Salary	1,582.67
07/27/2014	Luke Smetters	61020 · Pastor's FICA-Church Share	156.46
07/30/2014	Quinn Huebner	61130 · Organist & Musicians	415.57
07/30/2014	Diane Updike	61130 · Organist & Musicians	369.40
07/31/2014	Internal Revenue Service	61150 · FICA - Employee Share	259.23
07/31/2014	Internal Revenue Service	61140 · FICA - Church Share	214.23
07/31/2014	Alliant Energy	64214 · Electricity Parsonage	133.69
07/31/2014	Alliant Energy	64224 · Fuel Parsonage	9.25
07/31/2014	Alliant Energy	64212 · Electricity Wiota	100.07
07/31/2014	Alliant Energy	64222 · Fuel Wiota	12.01
07/31/2014	CenturyLink	64234 · Telephone & Internet Parsona	110.08
07/31/2014	CenturyLink	64232 · Telephone Wiota	40.90
07/31/2014	Portico	61030 · Pastor's Pension & Insurance	953.70
07/31/2014	Augsburg Fortress	63030 · Education Materials	87.15
07/31/2014	Neighborhood Office Solutions	63020 · Postage/Copier/Office Suppli	137.70
Total Expenses			\$ 7,559.78
Balance 7/31/2014			\$ 41.15
Bills unpaid at month end:			
	South Central Synod of WI	Benevolence - March - July	2,500.00
	Portico	Pastor's Pension & Insurance	953.70
	Church Mutual	Commercial Insurance	545.30
	Wiota Sanitary District	Fire Protection - Q2	848.68
	Memorial Fund	Borrowed from Memorial Fund	9,500.00
			\$ 14,347.68
Account Balances:			
	Church Usage	Regular Savings	\$ 100.81
	East Repair & Maintenance	Regular Savings	\$ 6,515.19
	Memorial	Regular Savings	\$ 21,242.66
	Music & Education	Regular Savings	\$ 102.30
	Parsonage	Regular Savings	\$ 1,376.21
	Wiota Repair & Maintenance	Regular Savings	\$ 3,614.55

A Special Note: Sunday Worship Time

Since WOW will include education for children that used to occur on Sundays, our worship time on Sunday mornings will continue to be at 9:30am.



A/V System



The Audio/Visual System at Wiota Church will be dedicated and blessed on Sunday, September 14th. (LWR quilts and kits we be blessed on this Sunday too.) Please join us for this special presentation during worship!

Annual WELCA Bazaar & Action

Sunday, September 28th

Lunch: 10:30a.m.—2:30p.m.

Auction: 2:30p.m.



Thrivent Financial

Please remember to designate your Thrivent Financial Dollars by calling 1-800-847-4836. You can help raise the church some extra money, simply by calling.

Congregation Thank You's!

- Thank you to all who have donated to the parsonage roof fund. We are still in need of your generosity to complete this project! Thanks again!
- Thanks to Kari (Nethery) Kluckhohn for her student's donations of school supplies for the LWR school kits. The remainder of the items were divided between Argyle, Blackhawk, and Darlington schools.

September Worship Assistants

- Sept 7th:** Greeters: The Ames Family; Ushers: Everett Thoreson & Don Seffrood; Worship Asst.: Alice Wang; Elements: Janeen Trame; Bread: Cody Ames; Acolyte: Ben Cooper
- Sept 14th:** Greeters: Sandy Potter & Ramona Komprood; Ushers: Jalaine Ruegsegger & Sheila Carrington; Elements: Alice Wang; Worship Asst: Sue Buetzer; Acolyte: Anna Carper
- Sept 21st:** Greeters: Don & Barb Eicher; Ushers: Jonathan & Sheila Carrington; (East) Bread: Mary Lou Hansen; Elements: Mary Lou Hansen; Worship Asst: Connie Redden; Acolyte: Karl Seffrood
- Sept 28th:** Greeters: Ancil Norland & Don Seffrood; Ushers: Curt & Becky Wang; Elements: Sue Buetzer; Worship Asst: Marne Wilson; Acolyte: Jaydyn Saalsaa

ELCA Stories of Faith in Action: “Youth Connect Two Communities”

By Charity Springer

For many youth groups, trips are a time to work on service projects, see other youth groups and learn about a common theme. Others go on trips working alongside the youth in their group and learn more about the people they share their lives with.

The youth from St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Avon, Conn., and Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., were able to experience a completely different kind of trip. Instead of working on a project for a week or meeting hundreds of other youth, these youth groups visited each other for a week, doing just that, spending time together—being together in the spirit of Christ.

Building community – cross-culturally

Yehiel Curry, pastor of Shekinah Chapel, and Daniel Hille, pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, decided to do a cross-cultural travel experience like this prior to the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit to teach humanity and community beyond location or preconceived ideas.

“When Reverend Hille contacted me to discuss a mission exchange project, I quickly jumped at the opportunity. I did not know much about St. Matthew Lutheran Church, but I knew a lot about Dan and that was enough to proceed with the project,” said Yehiel.

“From the onset, Pastor Curry and I had shared the mind frame that this would not be a ‘programming’ trip. By that we meant the goal of our time together was not to build a house, paint a building or any one overarching service project,” said Daniel. “Instead, our time together was focused on living together in our communities.”

The activities for each congregation’s visit were chosen to “show off” the areas where they would be spending time. “All the activities picked for this year’s trip were selected to show off the greater Hartford area and engage participants in activities that are a regular part of summer life in Connecticut,” said Daniel. Hiking, river rafting, amusement parks and state parks are just a few things that the youth were able to experience during their time together in Connecticut.

Young people lived alongside and with each other in their home communities and neighborhoods, doing regular things that young people and their congregations do in the summer. They were able to form and reshape their opinions and understandings based on the people, places and experiences and not on what they may have learned from the media, headlines or conjecture before the trips.

Matthew, shared that her children have learned some valuable things because of the trips. “They have become much more aware that the perceived differences between these two groups is not real and feel that they all have the same interests as teenagers living in faith regardless of other factors.”

Giving high school students the opportunity to travel to new places and meet new people is something that will stay with them forever. “My daughter went to Chicago last year and loved the excitement of a new place, new friends and the comfort of being with the kids who were already friends,” said Christine.

“Because our children know they will see the children of St. Matthew again, they have maintained the relationships that were started last year. This experience has created an expectation for our grammar school youth -- who were too young to participate -- for a similar experience,” said Yehiel.

“We are already having planning discussions for 2016.”

(See more at: <http://www.elca.org/en/Living-Lutheran/Stories/2014/08/140813-Youth-connect-two-communities#sthash.uQFL1Ono.dpuf>)

Craft 4 A Cause

We are gearing up for another wonderful weekend of Craft 4 A Cause. Our next event will be held on Friday, October 10 from 8:00am—11:00pm and Saturday, October 15 from 8:00—10:00pm. The cost for the weekend is \$25.00 or \$15.00 for a single day

This time around we are crafting to assist Office Gorham, with the Lafayette County Police Department, in raising money to supply police officers/departments with tactical first aid kits. These kits are small enough to fit in a cargo pocket. All officers that receive a kits also receive training on how to properly use the materials in the kit.

Lunch on Friday will be from Subway and will cost \$5.00 per person. The lunch includes a 6” sub with a bag of chips and a cookie. Dinner Friday night, lunch on Saturday, and dinner Saturday night will be provided. As always, everyone is asked to bring a snack to share, as well as their own beverages.

We are looking forward to having a fun, relaxing time. As always there will be socialization and quality time to work on your favorite crafts! RSVP's are due no later than Saturday, October 4th. You must pay in advance to hold your seat.

If anyone is interested in donating toward the cause, or if you are interesting in donating toward the event (such as items to make meals, time helping in the kitchen, or monetary donations to help with out of pocket expenses) please contact Jenna Bocklund at jenna_1785@hotmail.com or 608-293-1785.

This event continues to grow and I am amazed at how many different organizations we have been able to contribute to. Not only that, but I work hard to keep everything local. All of the crafters who attend have a great time and they always come back. We have been seeing many new faces at this event. Thank you all for the support and help you provide me along the way. Without everyone's help, this event would not be what it is today.

I hope to see you there!

—Jenna Bocklund

Wiota LYO News

Our summer of relaxing, going on trips, and having fun is almost over. I think it was only yesterday that I heard the words “schools out for the summer!” Before we know it, we will be back into the school schedule where we are waking up far too early to catch the school bus.

While we're heading back to school, the LYO is going to be busy the rest of this year and during the upcoming year. We're preparing for our National Youth Gathering in Detroit in July 2015. We will be pre-registering this month already. After all of our hard work and fundraising, it will be great to participate in this life changing event!

As we begin to prepare for white fluffy snowflakes falling from the sky, we will be selling “That's My Pan” starting on Sunday, September 14th. We've had several requests for these items. There is a large selection and they all make excellent gifts. Personalizing these items will ensure they never get lost or go to the wrong home again (except, of course, if you take it to a family reunion). Plus, the more you buy, the more we raise for our trip!!!

In October, we'll be helping out with the Harvest Ball. We hope you can join us for this night of fun and celebration!

Thank you for all of your support!

Wiota LYO

