

## Side by Side

What do photographers, electricians and audio/visual (AV) experts have in common? Not much as it turns out, except they were all in our church on the same day in August. It wasn't an error in scheduling; it's simply the way it had to be. To schedule them all on different dates, one of the parties would have had to have been cancelled and rescheduled a month or two later.

Normally having so many people all working in the same relatively small building would make me nervous and anxious. To go from having a building that sits empty on some days to a day when there is more noise and excitement than you might even encounter on a Sunday can pose some challenges. You could hear the sound of the photographers lights and cameras hum, ever so faintly, with the background noise of drills by the electricians and AV folk in the attic. Extension cords and HDMI cords and other cords that I don't even know the names of were draped throughout the church by all, some ran along the floor while others seemed to crawl out of the ceiling.

It could have been chaotic but each party respected the space and the work of the other. They all worked alongside one another and occasionally even together when boxes, chairs, tables, or other storage equipment had to be moved. And everyone's work was done cheerfully. You couldn't help but notice the great energy that permeated throughout the building. There was a lot of excitement!

In many ways, that one day is a good model for all of churchgoers. When we are all gathered together, there is a lot of energy. We're not all the same. We have different interests, different ways at looking at things, different professions and passions. And yet we're drawn together every week to do the work that Christ Jesus has called us to do. We're going to bump into each other from time to time. We're all going to need a little extra space from time to time for our items, crafts, and varying personalities.

I've thought for several years now that if I ever get around to writing a book, I'm going to title it: "Welcome to the Nut House." The subject and content, of course, would be about churches and their members. There are some psychiatrists who see as many as 100 patients per week. However, they typically see their patients one-on-one, during separate appointments, during separate hours, and throughout the week. Could you imagine what it might be like if a psychiatrist saw all their patients together during the same hour? I can. I imagine it would be like worship at our church.

Christ, the great psychiatrist, calls us to come together as a community for worship. And so we all come, each of us with our own needs, our own brokenness, our own baggage, our own personalities. Christ calls us, invites us, encourages us, and at times even begs us to come. We come as electricians and photographers, farmers and bankers, teachers and lawyers. We bring differing interests and passions and ways of looking at the world.

Sometimes I think it's crazy that we all gather together as regularly as we do, and as different as we are. The church is kind of "a nut house." We're all in need of something or other—healing, hope, wholeness, new life, and so much more—and yet Christ calls us all together because Christ knows we can find healing through one another. Christ Jesus knows how very much we are all capable of, despite our dynamic differences.

Our church gets noisy and full at times, but I'm glad we're all able to continue striving to be the community God calls us to be.

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

## Highlights from the July Council Meeting

- There was a lot of positive feedback from the church outing to Olbrich Gardens in Madison. If you have an idea for a future church outing, suggest it to Pastor Luke.
- The paintings that were created during Lent are going to be part of an art display at Monroe Hospital in 2015. We'll announce details about the display closer to the date.
- There is a lot of planning happening for WOW (Worship On Wednesdays).

## **Pastoral Acts**

- Funeral: Hazel Miller on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at Wiota.
- Wedding: Mallory Berrey & Joe Ballard on Saturday, June 28, 2014 on family farm.

## **News from the Bold Café**

### **Ice Cream Social**

The Bold Café Gals will have an ice cream social featuring homemade ice cream and all the toppings for sundaes. There will also be a program presented by the Stuart and Sandy Seffrood Family about their recent trip to Peru. The social will be held on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. A free-will offering will be collected. Everyone is invited to attend. Please join us for this tasty and informative celebration!



### **Bold Café Gals Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, August 4th at 6:30pm.

## **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.

## **AV Project**

There are big changes happening within our worship space! The AV project will soon be complete and we will be stepping into the 21st century with lots of fun new additions to our worship as well as great teaching tools. If you have any additional ideas on how this new equipment might be utilized, please let Pastor Luke know!

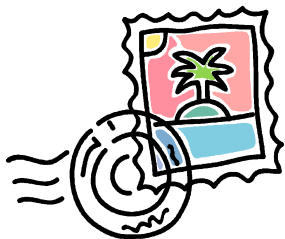
## **Community Garden**

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 Pastor Luke, Sandy Seffrood, Courtney Bocklund, or Chris Meyer.



## Stamps

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

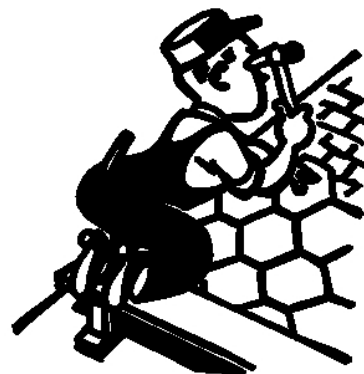


**In our prayers:** Karen Noble, Carol Broge, Shirley Johnson, Clare Pehl, Hazel Miller, and our homebound members.

**Also in our prayers:** Leona Reed, LuAnn Komprood, Dorothy Wicklund, Delbert Shager, Barb Dinges, David Gertsch, Jaden Goninen, Nick Saataff, Jayne Kent, Judy Fernstaedt, Tom Garvey, and Ruth Vosberg.

## Parsonage Roof

The property committee has recognized that the shingles on the south side of the parsonage roof are in bad condition and most likely will not make it through another winter. After obtaining bids and doing research, the council has decided to go with a steel roof which will last significantly longer than shingles. (The north side of the roof is already steel.) Bids received put the cost of the project at approximately \$4,800. Please consider making an extra special contribution to the "parsonage roof fund". The council hopes to have the work done within the next couple of months. Please help us keep our properties in excellent condition.



## WOW!!!

WOW!!!! It's coming!!! Worship On Wednesdays (WOW)!!! We are very fortunate that many schools and clubs regard Wednesday night as "church night". The Christian Education Committee and Pastor Luke have been working hard to think about how we can really build upon that. Following the model of Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran Church in DeForest, we are working to create an experience that involves fellowship, worship and education for families and people of all ages.

We're still in the planning phases, but here's what you might expect on a typical Wednesday night:

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.

All I can say is WOW!!! It's going to be great!!! Come experience just how amazing WOW can be!!! (While we're still in the planning stages, if you have any ideas or suggestions, please let Pastor Luke or Jalaine Ruegsegger know.)

# August Birthdays



# June Treasurer's Report

- 3 Marilyn DeNure
- 3 Hailey Wang
- 4 Kaye Larson
- 4 Allison Rygh
- 5 Carrah Jenson
- 5 Chloe Bocklund
- 6 Carmen Meier
- 6 Siahna Stoeger
- 7 Miles Lee Carper
- 7 Taylor Goodman
- 7 Clara Ronnerud
- 8 Delbert Shager
- 9 Mrs. Marie (Elliot) Mason
- 10 Laurie Monson
- 10 Clarion Wick
- 12 Val Hansen
- 13 Lance Miller
- 15 Mark Johnson
- 15 Margie Olson
- 17 Tillie Vande Hei
- 17 Judy Wehinger
- 18 Laurene Winn
- 20 Janet McDonald
- 20 Rita Norland
- 21 Callee Jenson
- 21 Justin Jorgenson
- 21 Taylor Hauser
- 21 Curtis Wang
- 22 Channelle Jorgenson
- 23 Roma Anderson
- 25 Samantha Nyffenegger
- 26 Sharon Johnson
- 27 Audrey Caygill
- 27 Jace Caygill
- 27 Josh Trame
- 28 Heidi Brenum
- 28 Thad Brenum
- 29 Greg Hansen
- 30 Mackenzie Monson

Please let us know of any birthdays we may have missed.

<b>Balance 5/31/2014</b>				\$ 400.09
<b>Income:</b>				
	06/01/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	2,270.00
	06/02/2014	Simply Giving	41010 · Weekly Offerings	300.00
	06/08/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	979.00
	06/08/2014	Coffee Hour	41120 · Donations	3.00
	06/15/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	500.87
	06/16/2014	Simply Giving	41010 · Weekly Offerings	20.00
	06/22/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	1,368.00
	06/22/2014	Coffee Hour	41120 · Donations	24.00
	06/29/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	1,086.25
<b>Total Income</b>				<b>\$ 6,551.12</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
	06/09/2014	Brooke Ames	61120 · Office Secretary	323.22
	06/09/2014	Connie Bocklund	61110 · Custodian	308.22
	06/09/2014	Luke Smetters	61010 · Pastor Base Salary	1,582.67
	06/09/2014	Luke Smetters	61020 · Pastor's FICA-Church Share	156.46
	06/16/2014	Vanco Services E-Service	63020 · Postage/Copier/Office Suppli	0.80
	06/25/2014	Luke Smetters	61010 · Pastor Base Salary	1,582.67
	06/25/2014	Luke Smetters	61020 · Pastor's FICA-Church Share	156.46
	06/25/2014	Postmaster	63020 · Postage/Copier/Office Suppli	200.00
	06/26/2014	Alliant Energy	64212 · Electricity Wiota	120.76
	06/26/2014	Alliant Energy	64214 · Electricity Parsonage	80.87
	06/26/2014	Alliant Energy	64222 · Fuel Wiota	27.73
	06/26/2014	Alliant Energy	64224 · Fuel Parsonage	26.22
	06/26/2014	CenturyLink	64234 · Telephone & Internet Parsona	109.76
	06/26/2014	CenturyLink	64232 · Telephone Wiota	40.91
	06/26/2014	Church Mutual	61230 · Insurance - Worker's Comp	72.25
	06/26/2014	Frontier-Servco FS	64226 · Fuel East	799.80
	06/26/2014	Neighborhood Office Solutions	63020 · Postage/Copier/Office Suppli	170.77
	06/26/2014	Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative	64216 · Electricity East	62.00
	06/26/2014	Wiota Sanitary District #1	64242 · Water Wiota	48.77
	06/26/2014	Wiota Sanitary District #1	64244 · Water Parsonage	42.68
	06/30/2014	Portico	61030 · Pastor's Pension & Insurance	931.26
<b>Total Expenses</b>				<b>\$ 6,844.28</b>
<b>Balance 6/30/2014</b>				<b>\$ 106.93</b>
<b>Bills unpaid at month end:</b>				
		South Central Synod of WI	Benevolence - March - June	2,000.00
		Portico	Pastor's Pension & Insurance	953.70
		Church Mutual	Commercial Insurance	545.30
		Augsburg Fortress	Worship Supplies	87.15
		Wiota Sanitary District	Fire Protection - Q2	848.68
		Memorial Fund	Borrowed from Memorial Fund	9,500.00
				<b>\$ 13,934.83</b>
<b>Account Balances:</b>				
		Church Usage	Regular Savings	\$ 100.81
		East Repair & Maintenance	Regular Savings	\$ 6,515.19
		Memorial	Regular Savings	\$ 36,225.66
		Music & Education	Regular Savings	\$ 102.30
		Parsonage	Regular Savings	\$ 1,156.21
		Wiota Repair & Maintenance	Regular Savings	\$ 3,614.55

### 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!
  - ★ • Thank you to all who helped with our 4th of July parade float and all those who participated!
  - ★ • To everyone who helped the photographers during picture day.
  - ★ • To Mark Johnson, and Del & Rita Norland for many behind-the-scenes odd jobs.

### August Worship Assistants

- Aug 3rd:** Greeters: Jenson Family; Ushers: Don Seffrood & Ancil Norland;  
Worship Asst.: Lenita Stark; Elements: Sandy Potter; Bread: Audrey Carpenter;  
Acolyte: Karl Seffrood
- Aug 10th:** Greeters: Mary Lou Hansen & LaVonne Penniston; Ushers: Gary & Lenita Stark;  
Elements: Marne Wilson; Worship Asst: Jill Thomas; Acolyte: Caleb Jenson
- Aug 17th:** Greeters: Tim & Rhonda Pehl; Ushers: Steve & Kay Wang;  
(East) Bread: Janeen Trame; Elements: Miss D. Jorgenson;  
Worship Asst: Don Seffrood; Acolyte: Miles Carper
- Aug 24th:** Greeters: Willard & Mavis Shager; Ushers: Don Seffrood & Ancil Norland;  
Elements: Rita Norland; Worship Assistant: Connie Bocklund;  
Acolyte: Jaydyn Saalsaa
- Aug 31st:** Greeters: Ray & Leona Meier; Ushers: Mary Lou Hanson & L. Penniston;  
Elements: Audrey Carpenter; Worship Assistant: Jalaine Ruegsegger;  
Acolyte: Shaliko Harry



### Acolyte Schedule for September

- September 7th: Ben Cooper
- September 14th: Anna Carper
- September 21st: Karl Seffrood
- September 28th: Miles Carper



## **ELCA Stories of Faith in Action: ‘Being there’ for Farmers**

### **By Charity Springer**

Farming, for many, is a passion. It not only provides jobs for some people, but also provides food for many others. Without farmers, we would not be able to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables year-round.

Unfortunately, life for a farmer has its hardships. For instance, in the early 1980s, a farm crisis in Nebraska caused many problems for the state’s farm families. Debt increased, land values fell and foreclosures reached a record high. That’s when Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, a partnership with the ELCA Nebraska Synod and other denominations, created the Farm Crisis Response Council.

One of the primary services provided by the council is the Nebraska Rural Response Hotline. When a farmer, rancher or rural resident calls the hotline, an experienced staff person assists the caller and discusses their needs. “The biggest request that we get is the need for someone to hear them and sort through their issues. (Others) are family issues and financial issues. There’s a whole range of topics,” says Ken Moore, interim director of Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska.

The council assists farmers and their families with financial needs, and its Counseling, Outreach, and Mental Health Therapy program is available to help deal with stress, depression and other mental health issues.

Ken explains that they weren’t expecting the program to last this long. “When this organization was established by Interchurch Ministries, they thought this would last for six months” but the farm crisis continues in rural communities today.

“Hunger in Nebraska is invisible and attention is focused on urban areas, and people are not aware of the needs and issues being faced in rural parts of the state,” says Ken. “Rural communities were once safe and prosperous areas where people could raise kids, and now that’s not the case. For a lot of rural families to survive, they still need one or two extra jobs in the household to make ends meet.”

### **Asking for help can be difficult**

ELCA World Hunger, through its Domestic Hunger Grants and other resources, supports ministries that offer hope and assistance to many thousands of people who experience hunger and poverty in the United States. The Farm Crisis Response Council received an ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant in 2014 to help support its continuing work with people living and working in rural areas.

“We really appreciate the grant. We have limited funds, and we have to stretch them to help as many folks as we can. We help just short of 4,000 families each year,” Ken says. “The grant gives us discretionary funds to help when we have an emergency.”

“A call came in recently from a dad, who works as an organic farmer with 11 children, who found out he has a brain tumor. Because of that health issue, he hasn’t been able to work on the farm. So what we were able to do - with confidentiality - was to provide money for them to buy groceries,” explains Ken.

When situations like this come up, it’s critical to have funds on hand to meet the basic needs of people who work on their own but still struggle.

Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, through the Farm Crisis Response Council, also makes asking for help easier. Because many of those who are struggling find asking for help difficult, they try to get by on their own. “It’s difficult for them to ask for help from the state because of the stigma, but they feel safe asking for help from the church. It’s important for the church to be there, and Nebraska has recognized that,” says Ken. Help or assistance can be less intimidating or humiliating to access when people know that it’s coming from the church instead of the state.

- See more at: <http://www.elca.org/en/Living-Lutheran/Stories/2014/07/140709-Being-there-for-farmers#sthash.WJvT5ffb.dpuf>

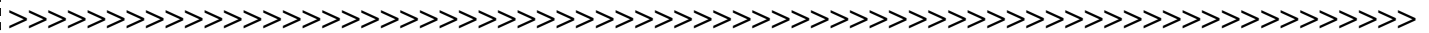
**AUGUST WELCA**

August 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	<i>Gather Bible Study</i>
	10:00am	Deborah Circle serves coffee break
	10:30am	WELCA business meeting
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	Quilting Day with potluck.

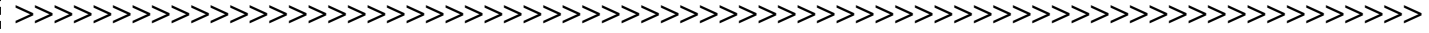


Mission Stewardship- Eight quilts were tied in June bringing our total to 101. LWR Kit items will be displayed on Sundays in August. Help complete a Baby Care Kit or School Kit. School bags will be available for supplies, since back to school items are now on sale in stores. Please have all kit items you wish to donate at Church for our August 19<sup>th</sup> quilting day. Coupons for Education are also needed for our schools. There is a box in the narthex.

Full WELCA Minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. We also have pictures to share from our events.



*“What we see depends mainly on what we look for.” – John Lubbock*



**Upcoming September Events**  
*“Fall Harvest Time”*

Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00am	<i>Gather Bible Study</i>
	10:00am	Miriam Circle serves coffee break
	10:30am	WELCA business meeting
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	LWR Packing Day with potluck.
<b>Sept. 28<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(Sunday)</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Annual WELCA Bazaar</b>
	<b>2:30pm</b>	<b>Lunch (served until 2:30pm)</b> <b>Auction</b>



**Wiota LYO News**

Hello to all you LYO supporters,

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Birthday! As you all know our birthday celebration has some bangs, exploding candles, and colorful rain. We shared our birthday with friends and family. We may have eaten a little too much but we had fun celebrating our big day. Once again Happy Birthday!

As we awoke the following Monday, we realized how busy our lives have been this year. We would like to thank everyone who helped put together our congregational float for the parade. A huge thank you to Neil & Brad Pehl for everything they donated and all the work to make it look so great. Thank you to everyone who helped paint signs and construct the float. We have a history of having wonderful volunteers and brilliant floats. This year was another one to remember!

The youth and parents are having a meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm with a potluck supper. We will begin pre-registration for the ELCA Youth Convention in Detroit in 2015. This is an exciting time! The convention is just around the corner and will be here before we know it.

We're planning and gathering ideas for this coming year's fundraising projects. In September, **THINK Christmas!** This year we are doing *That's My Pan*. This is a great gift idea for anyone, or treat yourself. Everyone loves to eat and these pans make the cooking and baking that much better! These pans make great gifts for weddings and Christmas!

Once again a very busy month has come to an end. More to come next month, be safe and have a great month.