

Stewardship Month and Our 170th Anniversary

The month of October is traditionally the month that we think about Stewardship. It purposely coincides with the harvest as a way of encouraging us to think about the abundant gifts we receive from God.

Back up for just a minute. What exactly do we mean by "stewardship?" It's a word that gets thrown around quite a bit in the church, but we're not always clear about what it means. By definition, stewardship is "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." As Christians, believing that all things come from God, stewardship is understood as the care of God's creation. That pretty much includes taking care of everything from the air we breathe and the water we drink, to caring for our brothers and sisters in our community and throughout the world, and taking care of our other gifts like our church building and its finances. Offering our time and our skills to the church and community is important. Offering a portion of our finances is also important and necessary.

But here's the hang-up: recent studies performed by the Washington Post and other data analysis companies have found that 57-62% of adults report having difficulty meeting their monthly bills. That's a staggering majority of our population. It's true that the costs of living continue to rise but have we been using that as an excuse for too long?

There are several passages of scripture that talk about the importance of giving and even tithing 10% of your income. Here's the one on my mind today:

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means... —2 Corinthians 8:1-3

It's the beginning of a story about an early Christian church, that despite a time of financial hardship, there was still overwhelming abundance and generosity. These early Christians contributed first to the ministry of the church before considering anything else. Today, there are also people who think first about the church when considering their personal finances, paying bills, or purchasing recreational activities.

Our congregation was organized in 1844. That's 170 years of ministry in this community and we'll celebrate those years of ministry on Sunday, October 26th with cake and ice cream!! Wiota Church means many different things to each one of us. Most, if not all of us, value its importance and its history in this community and hope it will be here for many more years to come.

Since the end of 2013, the church has been operating with a deficit of about \$10,000. The Congregation Council has closely monitored the treasurer's reports from month-to-month and we've been holding pretty steady. As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, help us meet our budget and close this financial gap. There are three months left of the year, and if we all give a little more, we can easily end the year in the black.

This church and congregation means a lot to everyone including our members and the surrounding community. And, while I don't know for certain, in five years when this congregation celebrates its 175th anniversary, I will bet there is going to be a huge party. The harvest is plentiful and God has granted us with an abundance of good gifts. So please continue being generous to this church.

Happy Anniversary everyone!!!
Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Luke

Highlights from September Council Meeting

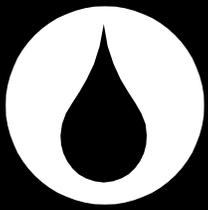
- Pastor Luke has spent a considerable amount of time in developing the website and church directory. Most of the work is complete and will require basic updating in the future.
- The Education Committee has spent a lot of time planning for the new WOW (Worship on Wednesday) ministry. If you have suggestions of ways to enhance our religious education and spiritual formation, please let us know!
- The Evangelism Committee has been working hard to include everyone in our new photo directory.
- We have almost raised the full amount needed to re-roof the parsonage!
- The Council is planning another Harvest Ball celebration. It's an occasion to come together to enjoy one another's company and have a good time.
- An outdoor property cleanup has been scheduled for Saturday, October 4th at 9:00am.

Pastoral Acts

- August 27, 2014: Funeral for Shirley Johnson (buried: West Wiota Cemetery).
- September 13, 2014: Marriage of Grant and Rachael (Hagen) Furguele in Waterville, Iowa.

Bold Café Gals Meeting

The next Bold Café Gals Meeting is Tuesday, October 7th at 6:30pm. We're assisting with the Blood Drive and the Craft 4 A Cause events. We also regularly engage in bible study that addresses our lives as working women. Come check us out! We are **bold** women!



Blood Drive

Mississippi Valley is hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, October 8th from 3:00pm-6:00pm at Wiota Church. Consider donating blood to help supply our local hospitals. To schedule an appointment please contact Sue Buetzer.

Church Clean-up!

We are cleaning up the grounds at Wiota Church on Saturday, October 4th, 2014 starting at 9:00am! Bring your rakes, gloves, and other outdoor tools. If we all work together, it should only take us a few hours to spruce up our grounds and make them look beautiful again.



170th Anniversary Celebration

Join us on Sunday, October 26th as we celebrate our 170th Anniversary as a congregation!! Let's fill the pews in worship that morning as we praise God for all the years our congregation has served this community and cared for each other. Worship begins at 9:30am. The celebration will continue after worship with cake and ice cream in the fellowship hall. Invite your family and friends to join you for worship on this special day!

New Website

Wiota Lutheran Church has a brand new website. It went 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.

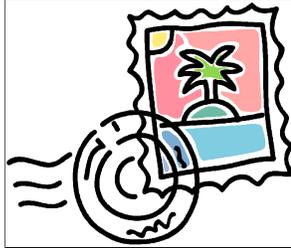


Daylight Savings Time Ends!

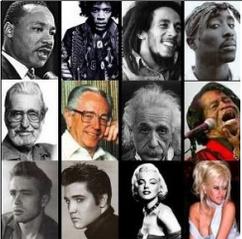
Remember to set your clocks back before you go to bed on November 1st!!

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, Clare Pehl, 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, Ruth Vosberg, Mindy Bocklund, Teresa Strahm, Dick Broge, and Eliot Larson



Remembering All Our Saints

The church celebrates All Saints Day on Sunday, November 2nd this year. Do you have a loved one who has died that you'd like to honor and remember? Give Pastor Luke a photo of this person, or email him one digitally by October 26th. Don't forget to include the person's name.

WOW (Worship On Wednesdays)

Is there something you've been missing? Is there something you feel like you have not been getting out of worship? Let Pastor Luke know and let's creatively think together how we might be able to incorporate whatever it is that might be lacking. The sky is the limit since WOW is all about letting God "out of the box." Let's rethink together about how we live out our faith and practice spirituality.



Thank yous!!

- "Thank you to my church family for remembering me and sending cards for my 90th birthday! Your thoughts and birthday wishes were so kind. I am so lucky to be at Wiota Lutheran Church. God bless you all!" —Edie Seffrood
- "Thank you to the Wiota Church family and friends for the beautiful flowers for our 68th anniversary! It was a very nice gift and we both thank you for remembering us. God bless you all." —Sherman & Gayle Johnson
- "We would like to thank our church family for your thoughtfulness during Spence's recovery from his accident. We really appreciate all of the cards, prayers, food and gifts you have sent our way. Spence is healing fast and we are grateful for everyone's kindness through our journey to healing. Thanks to Pastor Luke for the hospital and home visits to see Spence, he really appreciated your presence." —The Seffrood family.
- Thank you to all who have contributed to the parsonage roof fund!
- Thank you to everyone who helped with the LWR packing day!
- Thank you to our prayer chain leaders!
- Thank you to Del Norland for creating the beautiful wooden screen covers in the sanctuary.
- Thanks (in advance) to those helping with the Harvest Ball, especially Rockabilly Junction, Cottonwood Dairy, Roger and Penny Mayer, and Nikki Cooper.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped with the photo directory, especially those who checked in people when they arrived for their family's photo sessions.

October Birthdays



August Treasurer's Report

- 10/02 Kirk Brenum
- 10/03 Audrey Carpenter
- 10/05 Steve Brenum
- 10/07 Roger Trame
- 10/08 Dennis Holverson
- 10/10 Kenny Johnson
- 10/10 Mia Holverson
- 10/12 Scott Ruegsegger
- 10/13 Ramona DeNure
- 10/15 Eunice Graham
- 10/17 Krystal Werren
- 10/18 Todd Pehl
- 10/19 Wes Seffrood
- 10/19 Don Eicher
- 10/19 Barb Berget
- 10/24 Megan Larson
- 10/25 Loren Daentl
- 10/26 Bob Rood
- 10/26 Allyson Norland
- 10/27 Bridget Berget
- 10/28 Taylor Werren
- 10/29 Charles A. Goepfert
- 10/29 Laurie Monson
- 10/29 Keith Peterson
- 10/29 Katie Larson
- 10/30 Marne Wilson
- 10/30 Amy Fritsch

October Anniversaries

- 10/02/1982 Smiley & Judi Schmitz
- 10/02/1999 Tim & Rhonda Pehl (15th)
- 10/04/1997 Todd & Carmen Meier
- 10/04/2003 Matt & Rachel Jenson
- 10/06/2007 Dennis & Mia Holverson
- 10/15/1983 Brad & Nancy Pehl
- 10/19/2013 Daniel & Melissa Harry
- 10/22/1972 Allan & Sandy Potter
- 10/22/1983 Roger & Janeen Trame
- 10/26/1974 Sherman & Lorene Peterson (40th)

Please let us know if we missed your birthday or anniversary.

Balance 7/31/2014			\$ 41.15
Income:			
08/01/2014	Simply Giving	41010 · Weekly Offerings	300.00
08/03/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	865.00
08/03/2014	Community Garden	41120 · Donations	10.20
08/06/2014	Thrivent	40050 · Thrivent	583.00
08/10/2014	Community Garden	41120 · Donations	30.00
08/10/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	984.00
08/10/2014		41140 · Church Directory	60.00
08/15/2014	Simply Giving	41010 · Weekly Offerings	20.00
08/17/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	1,266.00
08/17/2014	Community Garden	41120 · Donations	27.47
08/24/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	1,478.00
08/24/2014	Community Garden	41120 · Donations	82.00
08/24/2014	Coffee Hour	41120 · Donations	19.36
08/24/2014		41140 · Church Directory	10.00
08/31/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings	900.00
08/31/2014	Coffee Hour	41120 · Donations	19.01
08/31/2014	Community Garden	41120 · Donations	12.00
Total Income			\$ 6,666.04
Expenses:			
08/11/2014	Luke Smetters	61010 · Pastor Base Salary	1,582.67
08/11/2014	Luke Smetters	61020 · Pastor's FICA-Church Share	156.46
08/11/2014	Luke Smetters	62010 · Pastor's Mileage	529.76
08/15/2014	Vanco Services E-Service	63020 · Postage/Copier/Office Suppli	0.80
08/24/2014	Rhia Strohm	61220 · Supply Pastor	200.00
08/24/2014	Connie Bocklund	61110 · Custodian	308.22
08/24/2014	Brooke Ames	61120 · Office Secretary	323.22
08/25/2014	Luke Smetters	61010 · Pastor Base Salary	1,582.67
08/25/2014	Luke Smetters	61020 · Pastor's FICA-Church Share	156.46
08/27/2014	Alliant Energy	64214 · Electricity Parsonage	166.27
08/27/2014	Alliant Energy	64224 · Fuel Parsonage	10.53
08/27/2014	Alliant Energy	64212 · Electricity Wiota	146.14
08/27/2014	Alliant Energy	64222 · Fuel Wiota	12.87
08/29/2014	CenturyLink	64234 · Telephone & Internet Parsona	110.57
08/29/2014	CenturyLink	64232 · Telephone Wiota	40.97
08/31/2014	Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative	64216 · Electricity East	220.00
08/31/2014	Church Mutual	64310 · Insurance - Com'l Ppty	545.30
08/31/2014	Regez Supply Co.	64410 · Cleaning Supplies	87.38
08/31/2014	Neighborhood Office Solutions	63020 · Postage/Copier/Office Suppli	112.02
08/31/2014	Augsburg Fortress	63010 · Worship/Church Supplies	68.40
Total Expenses			\$ 6,360.71
Balance 8/31/2014			\$ 346.48
Bills unpaid at month end:			
	South Central Synod of WI	Benevolence: March - August	3,000.00
	Portico	Pastor's Pension & Insurance	1,907.40
	Church Mutual	Commercial Insurance	545.30
	Wiota Sanitary District	Fire Protection - Q2	848.68
	Memorial Fund	Borrowed from Memorial Fund	9,500.00
			\$ 15,801.38
Account Balances:			
	Church Usage	Regular Savings	\$ 100.81
	East Repair & Maintenance	Regular Savings	\$ 6,515.19
	Memorial	Regular Savings	\$ 6,573.66
	Music & Education	Regular Savings	\$ 102.30
	Parsonage	Regular Savings	\$ 3,156.21
	Wiota Repair & Maintenance	Regular Savings	\$ 3,614.55

October is Stewardship Month

During this year's stewardship drive, we are encouraged to think about all the good things we have, including why Wiota Lutheran Church is so important to us and this community. We all need to "Step Up" our giving throughout these final months of the year. Help us close the gap between our income and expenses so that we end this year in the black. Because we all love this church!

Craft 4 A Cause

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

This time, we are crafting to assist Officer 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 kit also receive training on how to properly use the materials in the kit.

Lunch on Friday will be from Subway and cost an additional \$5.00 per person. The lunch includes a 6" sub, 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 support. 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 also 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

Greetings from the Wiota LYO! We have had an exciting year so far and have some very exciting things on the horizon. We have gone on field trips, played games, thrown Frisbees, and planned for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, Michigan in July 2015. We still have a few details to work out, but it looks like there are eleven of us travelling to the gathering.

Right now, we are doing "That's My Pan". So, if you are looking for gift ideas or need to replace some of your old plans, please comes and see us before or after church in the narthex. We also have the Harvest Ball coming up on October 18th from 4:00pm-8:00pm. We will be serving pulled pork sandwiches along with a lot of other really good stuff. The band Rockabilly Junction will be playing LIVE. We will also be playing bean bags, have hay rides, face painting, lots of fun and fellowship.

We are looking forward to the new WOW format which will really change the way confirmation has been taught to include our family and friends. It goes without saying that we do our best to represent our congregation with the spirit that we have. We realize we will play a significant role in the future of the church and that we have a lot to learn about life and our faith. We cherish the help, support, and guidance that our congregation gives us. It is our goal to show the world how the young adults from Wiota Lutheran Church can be a positive example for all young people.

Thank you from the Wiota LYO!

ELCA Stories of Faith in Action: “A Caring Stop For Child Refugees” By Anne Basye

When the doorbell rings in the middle of the night, Gloria and Luis Guerrero answer it with clean clothes, a toothbrush and a big hug. (All names in this article have been changed.)

At the door stands a social worker from Lutheran Social Services of the South and a child at the end of a long, hard journey.

Gloria and Luis, who live in Texas, are transitional foster parents for unaccompanied children from Central America who have crossed the border, hoping to be reunited with relatives in the United States.

The largest placement agency for children in Texas, Lutheran Social Services of the South is also a contractor for the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement. When Lutheran Social Services of the South began ramping up its Texas shelters and transitional foster care programs in El Paso, Corpus Christi, and McAllen in order to care for thousands of new arrivals, the Guerreros responded.

They became certified foster parents to care for four children while the children’s mother, a close friend, resolved some challenges. When the family was reunited seven months later, the Guerreros closed their foster home. That, they thought, was that.

Then Lutheran Social Services of the South called.

Empty nesters, the Guerreros now shelter up to five children at a time in the bedrooms where their own kids once lived. In just six months, nearly 80 children, most under 12 years old, have bunked with them – a lot of toothbrushes to distribute, names to learn and tears to wipe.

Crossing two, sometimes three countries, these resourceful children have overcome many challenges on their journey. In the presence of this loving couple, they can finally let down their guard. “We tell them not to be afraid, that they will be safe and secure here, and loved, respected and treated right in our home,” says Luis. After a couple of days, they are “regular kids again, playing and joking.”

Weekday mornings, Gloria churns out eggs and tortillas while the kids get ready for the Lutheran Social Services of the South day program, where they learn some English and connect with medical and social services staff. Saturday, there are trips to the park; Sunday, the Guerreros bring whomever is in residence to their congregation.

The routine is comforting but short lived. Because all of the Guerreros’ foster children are “Category 1” children with a parent somewhere in the United States, the reunification process goes quickly. Lutheran Social Services of the South can track down Mom or Dad and arrange fingerprints and a background check (a federal requirement for parents of very young children) in just three days.

The Guerreros know a child is leaving when the day program sends him or her home with a new backpack. If the parent has bought a ticket for an early morning plane, the resident children say their goodbyes to one another the night before. When a nearby parent arrives by car, they can wave from their porch.

To help kids deal with transition, “I tell them, the chapter of your life in El Salvador or Honduras is now closed, and a new chapter will be opened here,” says Luis. “Often, they don’t want to leave, but we help them understand that we are a bridge helping them across to a new life.”

Learn more at: <http://www.elca.org/en/Living-Lutheran/Stories/2014/09/140903-A-caring-stop-for-child-refugees#sthash.QLCY1M0o.dpuf>

***Invite someone else to come!
Share this flyer with your friends and neighbors!***

You are invited to a
“Harvest Ball”

Wiota Lutheran Church
Saturday, October 18th 2014
4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Pulled pork sandwiches, salads, and lots of desserts. Face painting, hay rides, bean bag toss, and much more. Fun for all!!

Formal attire is encouraged but not expected.

Music & Dancing for all

By: Rockabilly Junction Band 6-8pm



Worship Assistants Schedule

10/05/2014

Greeters: Jonathan/Sheila Carrington
Ushers: Dave/Audrey Carpenter
Elements: Rita Norland
Bread: Cody Ames
Worship Assistant: Connie Redden
Acolyte: Jacy Saalsaa

10/12/2014

Greeters: Orville/Margie Bondele
Ushers: Jonathan/Sheila Carrington
Elements: Audrey Carpenter
Worship Assistant: Sue Buetzer
Acolyte: Ben Cooper

10/19/2014

Greeters: Tim/Rhonda Pehl
Ushers: Del/Rita Norland
Elements: Janeen Trame
Bread: Sue Buetzer
Worship Assistant: Alice Wang
Acolyte: Miles Carper

10/26/2014

Greeters: Dave/Audrey Carpenter
Ushers: Don/Barb Eicher
Elements: Marne Wilson
Worship Assistant: Wayne Wilson
Acolyte: Spence Seffrood

11/02/2014

Greeters: Chris/Elsa Meyer
Ushers: Everett Thoreson/Alice Wang
Elements: Eunice Jenson
Bread: Betty Johnson
Worship Assistant: Del Norland
Acolyte: Anna Carper

11/09/2014

Greeters: Wayne/Marne Wilson
Ushers: Larry/Sue Buetzer
Elements: Elsa Meyer
Worship Assistant: Chris Meyer
Acolyte: Karl Seffrood

11/16/2014

Greeters: Don/Margaret Shager
Ushers: Connie Bocklund/Arnold Lancaster
Elements: Leona Meier/Mavis Shager
Bread: Barb Eicher
Worship Assistant: Marne Wilson
Acolyte: Jacy Saalsaa

11/23/2014

Greeters: Smiley/Judi Schmitz
Ushers: Curt/Becky Wang
Elements: Sandy Potter
Worship Assistant: Jalaine Ruegsegger
Acolyte: Ben Cooper

11/30/2014

Greeters: Don/Barb Eicher
Ushers: Chris/Elsa Meyer
Elements: Rita Norland
Worship Assistant: Courtney Bocklund
Acolyte: Miles Carper

12/07/2014

Greeters: Ray/Leona Meier
Ushers: Don Seffrood/Ancil Norland
Elements: Betty Johnson
Bread: Leona Meier
Worship Assistant: Jill Thomas
Acolyte: Spence Seffrood

12/14/2014

Greeters: Gary/Lenita Stark
Ushers: Wayne Wilson/Don Seffrood
Elements: Alice Wang
Worship Assistant: Del Norland
Acolyte: Anna Carper

12/21/2028

Greeters: Del/Rita Norland
Ushers: Terry/Barb Berget
Elements: Barb Eicher
Bread: Mavis Shager
Worship Assistant: Connie Redden
Acolyte: Karl Seffrood

12/28/2014

Greeters: Miss D. Jorgenson/Janeen Trame
Ushers: Gary/Matt Jenson
Elements: Lenita Stark
Worship Assistant: Larry Buetzer
Acolyte: Jacy Saalsaa

***If you are unable to help on a date you are assigned, please swap with someone and then notify the church office of the change. Thank you!