



Westkirk Weekly

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This Week's Activities

January 1-8, 2017

Today

New Year's Day

First Service - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes - all ages - 10:15 a.m.

Second Service - 11:15 a.m.

Choir, Great Hall, 4:00 p.m.

Monday

Church Office Closed

Christmas Decorations Removed, 10:00 a.m.

Commission/Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Wee Ones Playgroup, Hospitality Room, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday

No WOW Activities

Best Housekirk, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday

American Heritage Girls Troop Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 8

Communion Sunday

Glen Oaks, 2:00 p.m.

Choir, Great Hall, 4:00 p.m.

One Ancient Hope Housekirk, 5:30 p.m.

Coram Deo Housekirk, 6:30 p.m.

Our Weekly Concerns. New additions will be listed in bold print, and names will be removed upon request. Names left on for more than 3 weeks will be removed at the discretion of the office. Please keep these friends in your prayers: **Pastor Mike Augsburg** and **Willow Creek Baptist Church**, Carolyn Barnes, Beth Boeckemeier, **Paul and Laura Brown**, **Jim Dayton**, Darlene Denison, **Jessica Ellsbury**, Ellen Kinnaird, Paul Kurtz, Marillyn McCulloch, Marie McGhee, Paul Meinen, Paul Olson, Don Powers, Joy and Annalise Selleck, Senator Brad Zaun. **Condolences to: Chris and Pam Brown and family on the death of Chris' brother-in-law, Kurt Klammer; Bernie and Becky Koebernick and family on the death of Bernie's sister, Marlys Benjamin.**

Advent Decorations. The Altar Guild would appreciate help in taking down the Advent decorations **tomorrow morning** at 10:00 a.m. If about 20 volunteers appear we can all get home in time to watch the football games. Men are needed to haul the totes back and forth from the first floor to the basement storage.

Lunch and Learn. Tuesday, January 10, Westkirk Lunch and Learn will meet at noon for a meal of hot roast beef sandwiches. Pastor Paul and Donna will share pictures and experiences from their trip east in September, including the Ark Encounter. If you only have an hour for lunch, please join us in the Great Hall. We will be finished by 1:00 p.m. Please sign up on the Connect Card by January 8.

Time to Sign Up for Explorers' Class. The first Explorers' Class for 2017 will be January 25 - February 15 at 6:30 during WOW. Mark your attendance on today's Connect Card, sign up at the Welcome Center or RSVP to Pastor Michael at westkirk@westkirk.org. The Explorers' Class is your gateway to membership at Westkirk Presbyterian Church. Pastor Michael leads the class and it is a great opportunity to get to know him better, meet other Westkirk attendees and find out more about the church. It is a no-obligation experience as you will be given plenty of time after the 4 week class concludes to determine if you would like to join in membership. If you cannot attend all the sessions, please let Pastor Michael know and he will make alternative arrangements for you. We look forward to seeing you there!

Honoring Urbandale Police Department. The churches in Urbandale have decided to honor and thank the police and fire departments in 2017 by providing meals at their workplaces. The first two weeks of January are the days each church has scheduled their time to bring food to the Urbandale Police Department. Westkirk's day is Thursday, January 5. Please check the box on the Connect Card and we will contact you to coordinate the items. We need 3-4 casserole/entrees, 3-4 salads/sides, and 2 desserts to feed 25-30 officers and staff for the daytime shift. We will meet at Westkirk and drive together to deliver the meals at 11:30 on Thursday, January 5.

Email Notifications. If you are not currently receiving the "all church" email notifications and would like to be included, please check the box on the Connect Card and submit your email address.

Pick up your 2017 calendar at the Welcome Center.

WOW! That's Interesting. Westkirk on Wednesday (WOW) begins this New Year on Wednesday evening, January 11. In addition to the children's and student ministry, this winter/spring semester we will be offering two new adult classes from 6:30 to 7:30. And then, beginning on January 25 our first Explorers' Class of 2017 will begin for those who wish to explore membership at Westkirk. Here is what begins on January 11:

Ecclesiastes Bible Study. Ecclesiastes might be the most misjudged book in the Bible. It is wrongly read as being hopeless and without use for the Christian. This winter, Pastor George Edema will lead us in taking a closer look at the book of Ecclesiastes. We will confront a few key interpretive stumbling blocks and give special attention to the wisdom book genre. You will be pleasantly surprised by this book! Ecclesiastes will meet in the Lounge.

The Lord's Prayer. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, little did they know that they would be given a model for prayer that would be used for generations. Prayer is central to our fellowship with God, and our prayer life is directly affected by what we believe about God. In this DVD series, Dr. R. Albert Mohler Jr. shows that the pattern of prayer Jesus provides is few in words, yet massive in meaning. His prayer reflects true theology and proper doxology—a perfect guide for our own lives. Philip and Allyson Groner will lead this 12-week study in the Hospitality Room.

JANUARY COMMUNION OFFERING - SWIM
Safe Water International Ministries - www.swimforhim.org

In most of the developing world there is a critical need for safe water; however drilling additional wells is not always the best option. The additional wells still supply contaminated water, and political, monetary and location problems are sometimes insurmountable. Likewise, filtration is sometimes needed, but many methods are ineffective, slow, or difficult to maintain. Disinfecting the water available using a natural chlorine solution is the most logical, practical and effective means of quickly having a long-lasting impact in small communities.

The mission of Safe Water International Ministries (SWIM) is to love human kind by encouraging participation as ambassadors of Jesus Christ, providing for their physical needs, focused on safe drinking water and sharing the Living Water of Jesus Christ worldwide. Consider these facts:

- 20% of the world lacks access to safe water—that's 1 Billion people!
- 25,000 people die every day from diseases related to water.
- At any time, half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from water-borne diseases.
- Contaminated water accounts for 80% of all diseases and claims the lives of 5 million children a year.
- Contaminated water is responsible for diseases such as cholera, typhoid, malaria, schistosomiasis, hepatitis, diarrhea and intestinal worms.
- 1.5 billion people suffer from parasitic worm infections.
- In China, India and Indonesia twice as many people die from diarrhea than from HIV/AIDS.
- One flush on your toilet uses more water than the average person in a developing world uses in a whole day's washing, cooking and drinking.

Water-borne diseases are preventable! To learn more, go to www.swimforhim.org. Please consider a gift to Westkirk for the January Communion offering to support the work of SWIM.