



Westkirk Weekly

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This Week's Activities

January 8-15, 2017

Today

Communion Sunday
First Service - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes - all ages - 10:15 a.m.
Second Service - 11:15 a.m.
Glen Oaks, 2:00 p.m.
Choir, Great Hall, 4:00 p.m.
One Ancient Hope, 5:30 p.m.
Coram Deo Housekirk 6:30 p.m.

Monday

Commission/Committee Deacon Meeting, Lounge, 5:30 p.m.
Omega Housekirk, 6:30 p.m.
Doulos Housekirk, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Wee Ones Playgroup, Hospitality Room, 10:00 a.m.
Lunch and Learn, Great Hall, noon
Women's Bible Study, East Wing, 1:00 p.m.
Koinonia Housekirk, Lounge, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Deerfield, 10:00 a.m.
WOW Supper, 5:30 p.m.
Worship, Sanctuary, 6:15 p.m.
Classes for Children, Students and Adults, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Dorcas Circle, Hospitality Room, 1:00 p.m.
AHG Board Meeting, Blue Classroom, 6:00 p.m.
Faith Seekers Alliance, Housekirk, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday

Early Risers Housekirk, 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 15

Shepherd articles due
Choir, Great Hall, 4:00 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: **Pastors Mike and Sherry Harder and Vineyard Church**, Carolyn Barnes, Beth Boeckemeier, Paul and Laura Brown, Jim Dayton, Darlene Denison, Jessica Ellsbury, Ellen Kinnaird, Paul Kurtz, Marillyn McCulloch, Marie McGhee, Paul Olson, Don Powers, **Ron Reighard, Tony Schuster**, 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.



Holy Communion

During the first service, the communion elements are served to the congregation by the Elders. We hold each of the elements and then when directed, partake together. As part of our communion tradition, we typically stand afterwards and move toward the center aisle, placing our hand on the shoulder of the person next to us and, united together, sing the Lord's Prayer. This is one of the most meaningful moments of worship each month for many at Westkirk. During the second service, two pastors or Elders will hold the elements near the chancel area and when desired, worshippers come forward and are served individually.

Choir. The Westkirk Choir is beginning another Spring of joyful music and fellowship and we would like to invite you to join in! Regular Sunday rehearsals start today at 4:00, and we will soon be working on some beautiful music for Lent and Easter. The Westkirk Choir sings a variety of music styles and is open to longtime choral singers and beginners alike. We have fun in rehearsal and throw a mean potluck. Come by and try singing with us!



WOW Menu
Cheeseburger, French Fries (or Chips)
Tossed Salad, Fruit Cup and Cookie

Women's Bible Study. We will begin the Winter/Spring 2017 Women's Bible Study this **Tuesday, January 10, at 1:00 p.m.** in Room 5 of the East Wing. Our study will be Tim Keller's 6-week study *The Prodigal God* (subtitled: *Finding Your Place at the Table*) with a video and a discussion/reflection/application format. The Discussion Guide with questions and exercises will be available for purchase (\$10.00) on the first day of class.

We will discover the powerful message of Jesus' best-known (and least understood) parable: The Parable of the Prodigal Son and the amazing depths of God's extravagant love.

To sign up and/or for additional information, please call Regi Donaldson (515-276-6263) or email (regidonaldson@live.com).

Urbandale Food Pantry
Item for January - Diapers
Size 4-6 and pull-ups

Imagine Enough for Everyone: Make It Personal! On January 16 (MLK Day of Service), the Urbandale Food Pantry will be collecting items at the Urbandale Public Library (3520 86th Street) between the hours of 9:00-2:00. This year's theme is Make It Personal, as well as 100 Ways to Help Our Neighbors in Need (in celebration of Urbandale's Centennial). Please bring new personal care items; new (hand-made, if possible) winter scarves, hats, and baby blankets; and monetary gifts. Knitters and crafters are invited to work on handmade items on-site during the event. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ImagineEnough.com>. Thank you for your continued support of this vital service in our community!



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.

Lunch and Learn. This 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 today.

WOW! That's Interesting. Westkirk on Wednesday (WOW) begins this 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.

Three Wise Men

By Elaine Erickson

It is a star that sends them
on their journey, a star
that astounds them.
They raise their hands
to this radiant star
as it leads them
through an ominous world
of shadows.

Do they sing, their voices
ancient bells?
Do they see a woman
collapsing on a bed of hay?
Animals lick her face
until her scream
reaches the heavens.

The star guides them
to a house in Bethlehem,
where Mary holds her
young child.
They fall down and worship
Him, giving Him gold, frankin-
cense and myrrh.
The child is Jesus,
Son of God –
the marvel of this world.

Offering Envelopes are available at the Welcome Center.

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