

Life Together

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2022



www.wblc.org

262-245-5995

THE MISSION OF THIS CONGREGATION IS TO:

PRAISE God

PROCLAIM the message of Jesus Christ

REACH OUT with this message to people of all backgrounds and cultures

CREATE A COMMUNITY of Christian support, love, and forgiveness.

A Message From Pastor Tom

A Walk in the Woods

Some time ago I went for a walk in the woods. The trail that I walked on was through the woods of a very special farm called: *Seed Savers*. This farm's mission is to steward God's gift of seeds. Without seeds there would be no life. I regularly visit this farm and remember the blessing of seeds. *Seed Savers* farm is one of those places that feels like home for me.

When I walk in the woods on that farm, I always find inspiration. It is a time for me to think, to pray, and to simply practice mindfulness. It is a time for me to be present to God's beautiful creation.

The last time I walked in the woods at *Seed Savers* I reflected on where God has guided me. Here I am now at Williams Bay Lutheran Church serving as pastor. My feelings are a mixture of joy, calm, and thankfulness.

I trust that God has called me to Williams Bay Lutheran to be a part of something positive and life-giving. Just as I see God's life-giving presence on that beautiful farm just outside of Decorah, Iowa, I see God's life-giving presence here in this church.

When I see people coming week after week to worship, I see God's presence. When I see people gathered to sing in worship, I see God's presence. When I see people giving of their time and resources to help this church, I see God's presence. When I see people involved in our children's ministry, I see God's presence. When I see people excited about our church, I see God's presence.

I am thankful for this little community of faith. Sometimes a simple walk in the woods can be a very good time for prayer and reflection. For me, the walk in the woods gave me an opportunity to pray a simple prayer to God: *thank you*.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tom

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From the Stewardship Committee:

Dear Christian friends,

Before I write another line this evening, on behalf of the stewardship committee, I want to thank you for your steadfast and heartfelt devotion to Williams Bay Lutheran Church. During every autumn season the stewardship committee asks you to share your time, talent and financial resources with the congregation. And every year you respond generously with praise and thanksgiving. If the committee gets even a tiny sliver of the credit for this we are much gratified. Surely Pastor Tom deserves credit for this because he preaches a message of stewardship all year long. But most of the credit belongs to you and your loving response to the call of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit calls us to be disciples, to share the Gospel message in our congregation, in our community and in our world. Your response to this call has always been, "Send me". We are so thankful to God for each and every one of you. Thanks be to God!

And now I'm happy and excited to tell you that our stewardship campaign for 2023 begins this coming Sunday, October 2nd, and wraps up on Sunday, October 23rd. During these four Sundays we'll focus on the stewardship theme with temple talks, sermons, a skit and a testimonial. I'll be talking about pledging and growth giving. I'll also focus on all of the ministries that our congregation supports, with your help, from the DOT Adopt-a-Highway program to the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin.

Our annual campaign wraps up on October 23rd with what we have traditionally called Commitment Sunday. On this day we'll celebrate by collecting pledge cards and sharing an after-service fellowship with pie and donuts. Please make a special note of this. Sunday, October 23rd will feature a Unity service. (No 8:00 A.M. service that day.) Our very special guest that morning will be Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin who will share her own stewardship message with you. Let's plan to pack the pews that day to hear her message and to express our appreciation for her service. South-Central Synod staff persons have been

regular participants in our stewardship campaigns. We are thankful for their support.

I'm anxious to participate in what I know will be another successful stewardship campaign. You won't want to miss a single Sunday. On behalf of the committee, I thank you. May God bless and keep you always.

Yours in Christ;
Stewardship Committee Chairperson

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GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS SUNDAY



God's Work Our Hands Sunday was held this year on Saturday September 10th. Once again, the congregation assisted Harold Friestad at Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy harvesting seeds. Thanks to Harold Friestad, Pastor Tom, Stu Bieber, Dinah & Allen Harner-Filloon, Bridget, Chad, Liam, & Olivia Beth, and Jim Pfeil. This year was extra special as it was an ecumenical event. Members of UCC Williams Bay joined us in collecting seeds. The seeds will be used to further restore the prairie in Kishwauketoe. May God bless the seeds we collected!

VISIT FROM OUR SYNOD BISHOP

On Sunday, October 23rd our Synod Bishop, Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe will be joining us for worship. There will be a unity service at 9:30 AM with a special coffee/pie fellowship following worship. No 8:00 AM worship that Sunday. Please join us for worship on October 23rd to welcome our Bishop.

PRAYER STEPPING STONES



The Sunday school children made prayer stepping stones for the prayer garden. Thank you to all the Sunday children that helped with this project!

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Pastor Tom is planning a new member Sunday this coming fall/winter. Please let Pastor Tom know if you are interested in joining the church.

HEIFER SUNDAY/ PUMPKIN, PANTRY, POTLOCK



Please join us on Sunday, November 13th to remember the poor among us. The Sunday school children will use their Sunday school offerings to buy animals for Heifer International, we will take up a special food pantry offering, and we will enjoy a potluck lunch after worship. Mark your calendars for that special Sunday.

FREE PIANO IN THE HEARTH ROOM

If interested, please talk to Pastor Tom.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is held on Wednesday's at 5:45 PM. If you know of a 7th or 8th grade student who is interested in confirmation, please let Pastor Tom know. This year we will be studying Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* and the Bible.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is during our 9:30 a.m. service.

ALTAR GUILD IS LOOKING FOR MORE MEMBERS

We continue to look for new altar guild members. Our newest member of the altar guild is Dori. She joins Laura (Chair), Sarah and Jorine. The Altar Paraments are changed only to the seasons of the church year which is not a lot.

We would be happy to work with you until you have learned how things are done. This is a wonderful way to serve our church. Please contact Laura Hobbs if you would like to join.

CROP WALK



Please mark your calendars for Crop Walk on Sunday, October 9th. Join in on this community event to raise money for our local food pantries and for world-wide hunger.

There's a sign-up sheet and donation envelopes on the table in the narthex.

SUNDAY OFFERING COUNTERS

We need to re-establish the offering counter schedule. We are in need of two volunteers each Sunday to count the Sunday

offerings. If you are able to count offerings on Sundays, please let the church office know.

Giving Statements for the first half of the year are available on the back table in alphabetical order. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Newell at finance_secretary@wblc.org.

FLOWER CHART

If you wish to provide flowers for our Sunday worship services, please contact the church office to add to our flower chart. Call us at 245-5995 or secretary@wblc.org.

COVID - 19 WORSHIP OPTIONS

On Sunday mornings there will be three options for worship. The 8:00 service will be an abbreviated service with one sung hymn. The 9:30 service will be a traditional Lutheran service. The 9:30 service will also be live-streamed on Zoom. Please consider joining us each Sunday for worship through one of these ways. God is still working in and through this congregation and through the faithful worship and praise of its people.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Our next newsletter will be for November. If you have any announcements, please send them to the secretary by 10/25.

EMAIL LIST UPDATING

We are currently working on updating the church email list. If you're not receiving emails from us (weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, etc.) please inform the church office secretary@wblc.org, so we can add or update your email address.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Oct. 2	8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service & Holy Communion
Oct. 3		Church Office Closed
Oct. 5	5:45 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Oct. 9	8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service & Holy Communion
	12:30 p.m.	Crop Walk
Oct. 10		Church Office Closed

Oct. 12	5:45 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Oct. 16	8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service & Holy Communion
Oct. 17		Church Office Closed – Pastor Tom at Synod Continuing Education
Oct. 18		Church Office Closed – Pastor Tom at Synod Continuing Education
Oct. 19	5:45 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Oct. 20	5:45 p.m.	Youth & Education
	7:00 p.m.	Council
Oct. 23	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service & Holy Communion w/Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe
Oct. 24		Church Office Closed
Oct. 26	5:45 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Oct. 30	8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service & Holy Communion
Oct. 31		Church Office Closed