



## The Pastor's Pen



This morning, I listened to a wailing baby. For 15 minutes, the sound of my grandson Atticus' voice reverberated throughout the house as he resisted the pull of nap time. The baby monitor intensifies his emotions. Confused by his new surroundings, he was deeply sad and on the edge of frustration.

This morning, I also found myself looking ahead to Christmas. I am preparing the December newsletter, writing Advent devotions before Thanksgiving, and trying to plan a Christmas Eve service as I ponder pumpkin pie, turkey, and sweet potatoes. I'm confused and, if I'm not careful, it can put me right on the edge of frustration.

So I stepped back for a moment. And I went and held the baby. I gathered him up in my arms and rocked him gently. I spoke words of comfort, and I reassured him, and myself, that things were going to be alright...that he was loved...that life is hard, but that we would get through it together.

Atticus calmed down. I came back refreshed.

This Christmas, when you find yourself stepping up to the edge, take a moment to hold the baby. God comes to us in vulnerability. And the best thing we can do is to pick that up and offer what comfort we can...to understand that life can be hard...to promise that, together, we will be with each other through it all.

May you find God's child this Christmas.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sue



### Dates to Remember

- Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> Elders' Meeting 6:30 pm
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> CWF 9:00 am  
Choir 6:30 pm
- Dec 5<sup>th</sup> WOW Bake Sale prep
- Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Bake Sale
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Choir 6:30 pm
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> WOW 7:00 pm
- Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Choir 5:30 pm
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Office Closed
- Dec 31<sup>st</sup> Office Closed



Join the faithful across the world as we welcome the birth of the Christ Child. We will celebrate a Service of Candles and Carols on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



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Phone: 515-987-4937  
[www.waukeechristianchurch@msn.com](mailto:www.waukeechristianchurch@msn.com)

# Cross + Words

December, 2013



## Wish List

Youth Sunday School needs a few items!! Can you help by donating?

- “Prizes” or small gifts to put in the Marketplace
- Long-sleeved shirts for painting smocks
- Bible Flashcards
- Camcorder and stand
- Scrapbooking punches, stamps, stickers
- Children’s Nativity Set
- Elementary-aged board games
- 2 Computers (used)
- Veggie Tale videos

Your gift is appreciated!



It’s that time of year. In cases of emergency, the Board Chair and the Minister will decide action that is in the best interest of the members and friends of the Waukee Christian Church.

If worship is cancelled due to ice or snow, a One Call Now message will be sent to your phone and, when possible, local television stations will be notified. Make sure the office has your current phone information so you can be up to date!



A flat screen TV has been installed in the narthex through the generous contributions to the Roland Graham Memorial. The TV will be used to welcome visitors and members and display announcements. It will also be used during funerals, weddings, holidays and special services. Many thanks to Roland’s family and friends. This is a wonderful tribute to him and the church he loved.



Nothing says comfort and love like a church bake sale! Stuff your Christmas stockings with homemade cookies, candies, jams, jellies, cakes and more. The Waukee CWF and WOW groups are hosting an **All-Church Holiday Bake Sale** during **Fellowship Time** on **December 8<sup>th</sup>**. What better way is there to prepare for Christmas than by letting someone else do the cooking? Donations of baked and homemade goods are welcome!! – but please price them. Proceeds will be used to cover the costs of funeral dinners.



### Prayer Shawls Available

Do you know someone who needs the love and support of Waukee Christian Church? Our Knit Wits group has prayer shawls available. You may pick one up from Pat Carpe whenever needed.

# Cross + Words

December, 2013



## Sunday School

**No Adult or Youth Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>. Join us for Coffee Fellowship after worship, and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



### 2014 Officers Approved

The 2014 Officers were approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. They are:

Chair: George Risinger

Vice Chair: Linda Foltz

Treasurer: Dave Grandgenett

Secretary: Lorrie Keller

Financial Recording Secretary:  
Beckie Myers

Elders: Duane Sindt, Cathy Conklin,  
and Jerry Woods.

We thank them for their servant spirit!



Knit Wits meet at the church every Tuesday morning at 9:30 am. They make many beautiful items and welcome anyone to join their fun group.

Cash donations or donations of 3-4 skeins of yarn of one color are also needed.

## Thanks to . . .



- CWF and WOW for hosting and serving Ben and Kristen's wedding reception.
- Denny Page and Ron Hardersen for installing the TV in the narthex.
- Our Leadership for saying yes to the Nominating Committee and helping us discern God's call.
- Members and Friends for coming to the Thanksgiving Table with the gift of food.
- The Prayer Support Group for your commitment to deepening your relationship with God.
- The Pastoral Relations Committee for your gentle spirits and guiding hearts.
- Vicki Teas, Ruth Sindt, and the Choir for providing beautiful music at Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Everyone who helped decorate our sacred space for Advent and Christmas.
- All members and friends who pledged their support to the Stewardship of the Kingdom. Your commitment helps us develop a budget, plan for ministry, respond to crises, and grow in our obedience to God's will. You are a blessing!
- Gardeners who care for our planters



## Holiday Hours

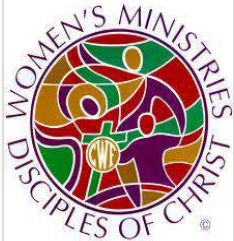
The office will be closed on December 25<sup>th</sup>, December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Newsletter articles for the January 2014 issue are due by December 19<sup>th</sup>.



# Cross Words

December, 2013



The CWF group will be meeting on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM at the home of Velda Morris (798 Ashworth Drive).

Everyone is invited to bring a homemade goody to share. All ladies are welcome to attend.

## Monthly Communion Is Available

The Elders take communion once a month to those who are homebound, in nursing facilities or hospitalized.

If you would like to receive communion, please contact [Linda Wilcox](mailto:Linda.Wilcox@waukeechristianservices.org), Elder Chair at 515-777-3844.



**WOW!**

The Women of Waukee will meet on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at Shari Burgus' home - 1436 SE Primrose Lane in Waukee. We will have a cookie exchange. There will also be an outing on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> to go to the Top Hat Carolers performance at 7:00 pm at Arts Central, 405 Maple Street, Waukee. Individual tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the door. We will go out afterwards for dessert. All women interested in deepening their faith, service, and fellowship are welcome!

*make someone else's Christmas a little brighter*



## give the Gift of Food

Thanks to our church family for your ongoing and generous support of the Waukee Area Christian Services. This organization includes the Food Pantry, the Free Clinic, and the Community Garden. You are encouraged to go to [www.WaukeeChristianServices.org](http://www.WaukeeChristianServices.org) to find out more about the activities and volunteer opportunities of this organization.

As we wrap up our Thanksgiving food drive, we are immediately heading into the Christmas season and the WACS annual holiday "Gift of Food" project. Last year 216 boxes were distributed and it is estimated that the need will be even greater this year. Each of the area churches have been invited to provide boxes filled with the items for a family Christmas dinner.

To assist in the planning for this much needed ministry it would be helpful to know how many boxes our church might provide. Please give me a call by December 1 to find out more about what is needed or to let me know if you would like to contribute an entire box, some of the items for a partial box, a grocery gift card, or cash to help bring some holiday joy to those most in need in our community.

Sue MacRae 987-9678 ( Please leave a message if I'm not home.)



Your giving is important to the future ministry of God's church in this place. Please give generously and with a cheerful heart.

	August	September	October
<b>Receipts</b>	\$ 8,583.00	\$ 9,657.00	\$ 11,950.00
<b>Expenses</b>	11,178.00	9,930.00	10,591.00
	<b>\$(2,595.00)</b>	<b>\$ (273.00)</b>	<b>\$ 1,359.00</b>
<b>Money available for expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,606.92</b>	<b>\$ 3,952.04</b>	<b>\$ 4,912.75</b>

# Cross + Words

December, 2013

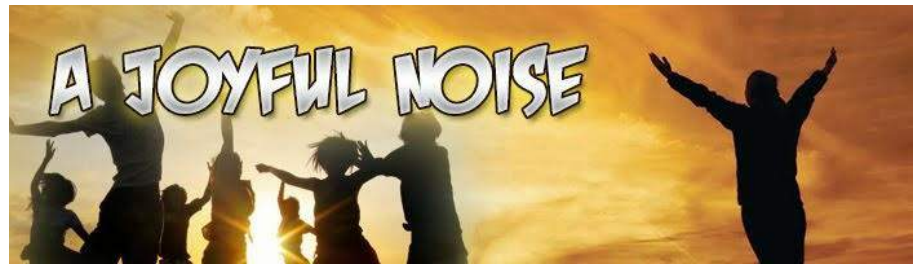


Between The Covers book club meets on the last Monday of the month at 6 pm to discuss the book of the month and enjoy table fellowship. If you can join us, great! The December meeting is the Yearly Celebration!



## WORM Planning Day

The Christian Ed Task Group will meet on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am to talk about how to update our Sunday School classrooms and make them exciting and inviting for children and youth. If you are interested in attracting young families to the congregations, then please join us!



## Make a Joyful Noise!

The choir will rehearse on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm They will perform in worship on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Additional rehearsals will be added as needed). New voices are always welcome!



During November worship, the Stewardship Team presented their Thoughts on Giving, sharing how God's greatest gift has impacted them.

Then your personalized **Commitment Card** was delivered.

You can return your Commitment Card and Puzzle Piece at any time. However, on **December 8<sup>th</sup>** we will celebrate collectively by placing our Commitment Cards on the Communion Table and assembling the Puzzle during worship.



Please let the church office know about hospitalization, surgeries, etc. The Privacy Act (HIPAA) limits the notification we get from health care facilities. The church number is 515-987-4937 and Pastor Sue can be reached at 515-577-4543.

## blessings abound

Your generous donations have fully paid for the furnace that needed replaced in the narthex! Since the fellowship hall and classroom furnaces are also 24 years old, we will continue to accept donations to the Furnace Fund. That way, we will be prepared to replace them when the time comes. Good stewardship includes planning for the future of the church in this place! Thank you for being good stewards!



Please check the Quarterly Serving Schedule for December. We have taken the liberty of assigning dates. However, feel free to switch with someone if that date doesn't work for you. Simply let the office know and write the change on the schedule posted on the bulletin board next to the Kitchen serving window.

Date	Communion Prep	Audio Visual	Greeter	Youth Greeter	Candle Lighter	Children's Moment	Reader Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Scripture	Communion Invitation	Elders Call to Offering, Offering Prayer, Communion Prayer	Offering & Communion Server	Nursery Attendant	Fellowship Time	Food Pantry Delivery
<b>DECEMBER</b>													
1st	Dolores Betzold	Matt Hansen	Linda Foltz	Cassie Hansen	Linda Foltz	George Risinger	Karen Neese	Shari Burgus	Wayne/Joyce Breckenridge	Dave/Lorrie Grandgenett	Kelsey Baker	Lorrie Grandgenett	Beckie Myers
8th	Marlene Risinger	Jason Keller	Shari Burgus	Zoey Koch	Tammy Hardersen	Sue Woods	Suzanne Koch	Linda Foltz	Jan Jensen Karen Neese	Lee/Linda Foltz	Cassie Hansen	Marlene Risinger	
15th	Lorrie Grandgenett	Jerry Woods	Marlene Risinger	Cassie Hansen	Zoey Koch	George Risinger	George Risinger	Sue Woods	Duane Sindt Sue MacRae	Beckie Myers Shari Burgus	Kelsey Baker	Lois Bannister Velda Morris	
22nd	Jack/Pat Carpe	Cassie Hansen	Beckie Myers	Zoey Koch	Jason Keller	Sue Woods	Linda Foltz	Sue Woods	Sue MacRae Cimberly Hansen	Ron/Tammy Hardersen	Cassie Hansen	Naomi Brumfield	
29th	Dave Grandgenett	Matt Hansen	Lorrie Grandgenett	Cassie Hansen	Linda Foltz	Sue Woods	Shari Burgus	Sue Woods	Linda Wilcox Sue MacRae	Dave/Lorrie Grandgenett	Kelsey Baker	Karen Neese	

# DECEMBER

# 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 pm Elders</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 am Knit Wits</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 am CWF 6:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Bake Sale Prep</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 am Christian Ed Task Group</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship</p> <p>Bake Sale during fellowship 1 pm ISU Women's BB Game</p>	<p>9</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 am Knit Wits 6:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 pm WOW</p>	<p>12</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship</p> <p>6:30 pm Board Mtg.</p>	<p>16</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 am Knit Wits</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Group Spiritual Direction</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>First Day of Winter</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 am Knit Wits 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>Between the Covers Book Club Mtg.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30 am Knit Wits</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>				

# Cross Words

November, 2013

## WAUKEE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

29043 T Avenue

P.O. Box 278

Waukee, Iowa 50263



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service 10:00 am

### ...OUR STAFF...

**Pastor:** Reverend Sue Woods

**Admin. Assistant:** Lanita Cavanaugh

### ... CHURCH OFFICE ...

#### Office Hours

Monday-Wednesday-Thursday  
8:30AM – 3:30PM

#### Phone / Fax

Ph: (515) 987-4937 Fax: (515) 987-8911

#### Email

waukeechristianchurch@msn.com

#### Website

waukeechristianchurch.com

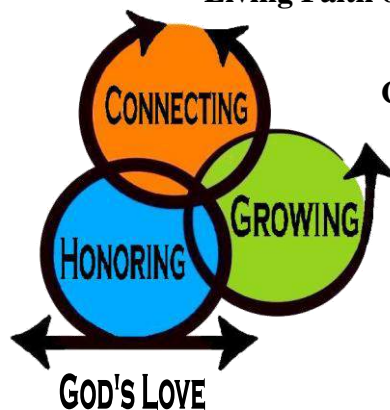
## People of the Table

### Living Faith on the Edge

#### NOTICE:

If you no longer wish to receive the WCC newsletter, please notify the office at 515-987-4937. If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, send your email address to [waukeechristianchurch@msn.com](mailto:waukeechristianchurch@msn.com). Thank you.

~ We are People of the Table ~  
~Living Faith on the Edge of Waukeee ~



**Connecting** people to each other and the world.

**Growing** spiritually through the renewing of our minds.

**Honoring** the Image of God in all people.

**GOD'S LOVE**

*The Waukee Christian Church Newsletter is published monthly.*



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Waukee Christian Church