

Faith *news*

WOOD RIVER FIRST & ALDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AUGUST 2023

BEST YEAR EVER!

Blood Drive

The Red Cross blood mobile will be at the First United Methodist Church of Wood River on August 8th from 12 noon to 6 pm. We have been very short of donors the last several blood drives. If you are able to give, please donate. If you are wondering if you can give due to a certain medication or condition, you can call the American red cross at 1-800-Red-Cross. They will happily let you know if you are eligible to give. To sign up to donate, you can go online at redcross.org or you can call Linda Thompson to make an appointment. There will be a double machine if you are eligible and want to donate doubles as well as being able to donate single units.



Blood Mobile

Church Events

- **Aug 3 Rachel Circle 1:30**
- **Aug 4-6 WR Funfest**
- **Aug 6 Community Worship at the High School, 11:00**
- **Aug 7 Ruth Circle, 1:30**
- **Aug 8 Blood Mobile, 12-6**
- **Aug 17 Sewing, 9:30**
- **Aug 19 WR Garage Sales**
- **Aug 24 UWF, 7:00**
- **Aug 27 Neighbor's Night 5:00 (Alda)**

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Most of our churches are spending numerous hours strategizing on how they can attract more people to their congregations. This is essential, especially now that many of our congregations have witnessed a decrease in attendance and consequently reduced monthly giving. Therefore coming up with ways and means to welcome more people is always important.

In one of my sermons in July, I shared about the transforming hospitality depicted in the story of Abraham and the three visitors. In reference to that Genesis 18 story, Hebrews 13:2 reminds believers not to forget to show hospitality to strangers because by doing so, some people have shown hospitality to angels. Here we saw that what Abraham did was something that can only happen when one is Spiritually alert to things of God. In our nature as human beings, this is not easy, but thank God for the Holy Spirit, who is our helper in moments like those.

Remember, our hospitality must not be motivated by anything else other than the love of God and the desire to do good at all times. A desire to offer purposeful compassion, grace, and hospitality to someone. For someone like Abraham, scholars indicate that being hospitable was a deeply rooted obligation and custom. He had learned how to extend generous hospitality to vulnerable strangers.

So, for our church's growth, we must become a body of Christ that seeks to obey the leading of the Holy Spirit and hence be able to see and respond to needs that it cannot risk attempting on its own volition. A regular social club might not bother itself with this God-ordained assignment of hospitality, but for us, the body of Christ, our mandate is clear. This calls us to what Robert Schnase calls "*The practice of radical hospitality.*" It could simply be called Christian hospitality or "the active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ," notes Schnase. Such hospitality is a mark of Christian discipleship, a quality of Christian community, a concrete expression of commitment to grow in Christlikeness..."

So, I invite us to join Christ this fall to be intentional as we extend radical hospitality to someone. Let us push ourselves beyond our comfort zones this time. Let us pray about it and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us as we venture into this territory of tapping blessings from God through hospitality, and may God bless all that we will do in faith. May we encounter God in this journey. Amen.

—Pastor Geoffrey

Mary Bilslend—Parish Nurse

Summer just got started and here we are about to start school. Before we have another newsletter, school will be in session so here are a few things to consider to prepare for school.

Be sure the appointments are completed for the Doctor, the Dentist, and any other things that need updated and dealt with. Make sure that the inoculations are up to date.

Concerns to consider for starting school are:

- 1 poor nutrition- Try and make sure that you child gets a good balanced diet.
2. Physical inactivity. Children are getting less activity. Many are not having having phys ed. May want to try and get some activity to your child outside of school.
3. If your child has a chronic illness, be sure the nurse is aware and what your child needs done if having problems. Be sure the school has a nurse or whoever is in charge of the health needs of the children and they know the needs of your child.
4. Many children have over packed schedules. Children need times to be creative on their own .
5. Many kids have poor social skills. They communicate with their phones and not face to face so may have problems with face to face interaction at school. Practice communication skills at home.
6. Many kids feel a lot of stress about going to school and doing well. Help children adjust to their natural gifts and help them succeed with the things that cause them concern. Keep the communications open.
7. Many kids end up with concussions at school and are unaware of it. Keep up on any injuries your child may sustain and be alert to changes in their behavior, headaches, dizziness etc.
8. Be sure your children are aware of cyber bullying and ways to handle it and what to do about it.

Illnesses most seen in school kids are:

1. Endocrine disorders such as diabetes. Be sure the nurse is aware if your child has an endocrine disorder and the needs of your child.
2. Genitourinary problems. Be aware of the signs and symptoms and be sure your child is aware of the symptoms so they may be caught early.
3. Musculoskeletal disorders. Often children will get sprains or broken bones on the play grounds.
4. Mental disorders and health conditions. Often stress, depressions , learning disabilities occur among children.
5. Skin disorders. Many children suffer from burns, acne, cuts and abrasions.
6. Digestive disorders. These can be as simple as the flu or can be appendicitis just to name a few.
7. Infections and parasitic illnesses. These are best prevented with good hand washing and keep your area clean.
8. Nervous system disorders.
9. Respiratory diseases may be RSV or a cold.
10. Lastly injury or poisoning. We just need to be aware and listen to our children's concerns .

Most kids do well in school and have no problems. Use preventive medicine and have a safe school year for your family.

August 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
		<p>1</p> <p>Judd & Shelby Allan Travis Doane Karen Codner Sylvia McTavish</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Rachel Circle 1:30</p> <p>Rod Tiarks Dustin Reeder</p>	<p>4</p> <p>William Arndt</p>	<p>5</p> <p>WR Funfest</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Community Worship at High School 11:00</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Ruth Circle 1:30</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Blood Mobile 12-6</p> <p>Tyson McLamb Seth McLamb</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Kyle Desel Marvin & Jane Rickert</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Curtis & Deb Rohrich Gary & Patty Camp</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Tonya Morse</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Wyatt Allan Gary Frear</p>
<p>13</p> <p>WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00</p> <p>Michael & Elizabeth Price Becky Allan</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Alda Meet & Eat 12:00</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Camrie Franssen</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Sewing 9:30</p> <p>Ray & Mary Ann Apfel</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>WR Garage Sales</p>
<p>20</p> <p>WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Sawyer Thompson</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p>	<p>24</p> <p>UWF 7:00</p> <p>Brooke Thompson</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Lynn Redding Ted & Sonya Schultz</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>WR Worship 9:30 Alda Neighbor's Night 5:00</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Greg Cramer Korbyn Urwiller</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Kelly Allan Evonne Kubert</p>	<p>31</p>		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Community Worship is Aug. 6 at 11:00 a.m. at the High School. We are asking members to bring a salad or dessert to share for the luncheon. Sign up sheet in the fellowship hall.
- Thanks for all the help and for the donations for VBS. We had 52 kids sign up this year!
- The second Sunday of every month is Birthday Sunday. Please come receive a special blessing if you are celebrating a birthday or anniversary during that month.

Giving Report

July: \$7462.00

Average monthly expenses:
\$11,634.00 (based off annual budget for 2023)

Average weekly attendance: 33



For online giving, scan code. You will need to create an account if it's your first time.