

# West Denmark News

## NOVEMBER 2025

### NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS AT WEST DENMARK

<b>Nov. 6</b>	10:00am	Encore Group
<b>Nov. 15</b>	7pm	Steven Hobert Concert, pg. 6 for details
<b>Nov. 9</b>	After Church	Fellowship to welcome Chuck and Shawn as permanent area residents!
<b>Nov. 17</b>	7pm	Church Council Meeting on Zoom
<b>Nov. 20</b>	10:00am	Encore Group
<b>Nov. 30</b>		First Sunday of Advent and Celebration of Al Zook's 90th birthday
<b>Dec. 6</b>	9-1pm	<b>COOKIE WALK</b> , at the Hall
<b>Dec. 7</b>	After Church	<b>Congregational Annual Meeting</b> and light lunch.
<b>Dec. 17</b>	11am	Book discussion on <i>Born a Crime</i> by Treavor Noah 11-12:30 on Zoom.

#### ✧ Special Days ✧

#### November

#### *Happy Birthday!*

- 1 Brenda Johnson
- 2 Maya Lumley
- 4 Kyle Petersen
- 16 Mike Rozumalski
- 20 Christine Petersen

***The Christmas program and service schedule will be in the December newsletter.***

### HOW MANY WAYS CAN WE DECK THE HALL???

The West Denmark Parish hall is more than just another building! Traditionally it has hosted church sponsored items like Family Camp, Fastelvn's, Christmas programs, Harvest Fest, æbleskiver dinner, meals after funerals.

Over the years we have added to this line up: family reunions, birthday parties, graduation parties, annual meetings of groups like Farmer's Union and the Luck Food coop, 4H, Girl Scouts, Informational gatherings such as the Monarca training in October, Wedding receptions, Fiddle School in June, the bi annual garage sale, Youth Dessert Theater, Cast parties for the Luck school Drama Department, Youth dance parties, and Folk Dances.

Discussion is underway about new ways to use the hall. Some ideas are Trivia Night, Open Mic, Farmer's Union Youth Day Camp, Crafting workshop and the list is growing. What are your ideas for how to use the hall more fully? With the upstairs wooden floor, stage, sound system and screen, combined with the downstairs dining room with seating capacity of 100, and beautiful kitchen facility, the West Denmark Hall has a lot to offer! Please dream with us, and suggest West Denmark to groups you know, Thank you!!!!

## Witnessing the Power of Community

As you probably have noticed, I am inspired by poetry. This month "Assurance" by William Stafford has come to mind:

### Assurance

You will never be alone, you hear so deep a sound when autumn comes. Yellow pulls across the hills and thrums, or the silence after lightning before it says its names—and then the clouds' wide-mouthed apologies. You were aimed from birth: you will never be alone, Rain will come, a gutter filled, and Amazon, long aisles—you never heard so deep a sound moss on rock, and years. You turn your head—that's what the silence meant: you're not alone. The whole wide world pours down.

As the vibrant colors of fall envelop West Denmark Lutheran Church, I am inspired by the beauty and strength of our congregation. The season of Thanksgiving invites us to pause and express gratitude for the many blessings we experience together, not the least of which is the incredible community we share.

Recently, I was moved by a poignant moment that truly encapsulated the spirit of our church. I witnessed a fellow member experiencing a challenging time, a moment that could easily have felt isolating and overwhelming. Before I could react, however, several members of our congregation had already jumped in, rallying around this individual with compassion and support. It was a beautiful reminder of the power of community at work—a vivid affirmation of a promised presence.

In those critical moments, I realized how deeply interconnected we are. Just as William Stafford writes in his poem "Assurance," "you will never be alone." The warmth of our congregation and the readiness of its members to step forward in times of need echo this truth. Like the gentle rain that nourishes the earth, our collective spirit represents a profound reality that transcends any individual's understanding.

Observing the caring hands, feet, and gifts of our members in support of one another embodied the essence of Christ's mission. When one of us faces a difficult moment, the others rise up to provide support, encouragement, and love. Each act of kindness—whether a listening ear, a warm meal, a reassuring presence—reinforces our connective tissue.

In this season of abundance, let us cherish the moments that remind us we are never alone. Together, we are more than just a congregation; we are a family, committed to walking alongside each other through every season of life. Thank you for being a vital part of this beautiful journey at West Denmark Lutheran Church.

Blessings,  
Shawn Mai,  
Interim Pastor, West Denmark Church

## WEST DENMARK WORSHIP NOTES

### SUNDAYS AT WEST DENMARK:

#### WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

<b>November 2:</b>	<i>All Saints Sunday</i> Cordelia Strandskov, Preaching "Honoring our Loved Ones: A Celebration of Lives Remembered"
<b>November 9:</b>	Christy Wetzig, Preaching
<b>November 16:</b>	Jeff Wetzig, Preaching
<b>November 23:</b>	<i>Christ the King Sunday</i> Shawn Mai, Preaching; West Denmark Choir Singing
<b>November 30:</b>	<i>Advent 1</i> Christy Wetzig, Preaching; Elinor Strandskov, Soloist

#### 8:30 MEDITATION GROUP

You are invited to join our 8:30 Meditation Group, which meets in the balcony of the church. In a world that can often feel chaotic, this gathering has become a grounding and connected time for all participants. We start with a short reflective reading, follow it with 15 to 20 minutes of silence, and wrap up with a discussion about our experiences. It's a beautiful way to center ourselves and find peace together.

#### 10 AM WORSHIP

Join us for our thriving 10 AM worship service, filled with inspiring music, engaging lay participation, and thoughtful reflections on lectionary texts. Invite neighbors who may be looking for community to experience our eagerness to welcome. Stay afterward for coffee, delicious treats, and meaningful conversations at 11 AM!

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### ANNUAL MEETING DECEMBER 7

The Annual Meeting of West Denmark Lutheran Church will take place after worship on Sunday, December 7, 2025. The Council will provide a light lunch before the meeting. There is no election of new Council members (because we voted to keep the President and Secretary for one more year during this time of transition), but it will still be an important meeting with presentation of the budget for the coming year as well as an update on the search and call process. Please attend!

## **HARVEST FEST '25**

*from Harry Johansen*

Although the spirits of those wishing to compete at Horseshoes or Home-run Derby were dampened by a ten-minute downpour, many other contests were held and winners were rewarded with beautiful Red Wing onions grown and provided by Bill Krueger. Thank you, Bill. Equally sumptuous were the dishes brought by attendees for the noon potluck in the form of salads, main dishes, and desserts. Some were entered in the food competition which were required to contain nuts. Care was taken by the kitchen staff that folks who might be allergic to them were made aware. Winners for these competitions were: Judy Grumstrup-Scott for salad, Nikki Strandskov for main dish, and Connie Wicklund for Dessert. The meal was made even more enjoyable by the presence of beautiful Fall Centerpieces on the tables. Kristin Martin was the winner in that competition..

Following the noon meal were a spirited song-fest and a talk given by yours truly titled "Joseph Haydn (the papa) and the Esterhazys (how the other half lived)", and then the games commenced.

For the Bean Bag Toss (quick-thinking Paul Petersen moved that game into the Hall) winners were Paul and Jeff Wetzig. Those playing Scrabble or Cribbage downstairs were well-aware of the fierce competition as the bags crashed to the floor above them when the goal missed. Scrabble winners were Bill Krueger, Henrik Strandskov, and Pam Petersen. Norman Hansen ran away with the cribbage prize. Al Zook took first for his pumpkin and Paul Petersen was runner-up for his apples in the Most Impressive Vegetable competition (it's a friendly contest).

Most importantly, many helpers behind the scenes kept the activities running smoothly. My thanks to all of them:

Kitchen - Nancy Moe, Connie Wicklund, and Jen Williams

Veggie Judge - Norman Hansen

Stage decoration - Norman Hansen with Kristin and Art Martin, Jen Williams, and me.

Food Judges - Roger Petersen, Patty Pearson, and Maggie Petersen

Dishwasher - Randy and Chris Petersen

Offering collection - Randy Petersen

Scrabble and Cribbage - Pam Petersen

Bean Bag Toss - Paul Petersen

Fall Centerpieces judge - Christy Wetzig

Chris Johansen, accompanist for the Songfest

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## **PUMPKIN PIE SUNDAY**

On Sunday, November 23rd, we'll begin the Thanksgiving week with a special Pumpkin coffee hour. We would like 6 people to bring a pumpkin pie each, one apple pie for those who don't care for pumpkin, and a gluten-free option would be great too! Talk to Nancy Moe to sign up or note it on the signup sheet. (Not a baker? You could bring a bowl of whipped cream....)

## GATHERING WITH COMMUNITY AND PARTNERS FOR SACRED PLACES

We have completed projects at the Parish Hall and Gymnasium to renew the building. The Nordic Churches Grant allowed us to update the Hall, and add safety improvements. As a way to wrap up this endeavor Emily Sajdak, director of Rural Initiatives at Partners for Sacred Places, came from Chicago to participate in a discussion on how the space could be used in our community.

We invited a variety of community leaders to take a tour of our campus, and envision how the property could play a role in the future of the community. We also asked what unmet needs there are in the area. Brainstorming together allowed us to share ideas and stimulate new ones. Here is a partial list of ideas:

- Friendsgiving and movie- in particular for people in recovery
- Space for non-profits to meet and organize
- Place to share skills/crafts. Dance, woodworking (think North House school in Grand Marais)
- Trivia night
- Open Mike
- Contra dancing
- Meditation retreat

There is no gathering at West Denmark that doesn't happen without food. Barb and Mike, dare I say, out did themselves with small Nordic sandwiches. The pictures don't do justice to the actual. Envision pickled herring, beets and onions on top of cheese covered bread, or avocado spread, sliced hard boiled egg covered bread with a beautiful Nasturtium flower.



The question that participants wanted to know is how much would it cost to rent the space or spaces. The rate scale needs updating and plenty of investigating of costs to figure out, so we didn't have an answer. Our purpose for this gathering was to understand the needs of the community. However we do need to gather data on what our costs are for each of these buildings, Dane School, and Parish Hall. If you are interested or have skills in asking the right questions to gather this data please let Nancy or Liz know.

## NOVEMBER 2025 CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT

Our Confirmation youth are studying housing and food insecurity. As part of our local awareness of these issues, our youth are gathering donations for Northwoods Homeless Shelters of Polk County. We are asking our congregation to join us as we look for ways to help our neighbors.

- You can make a monetary offering: make checks payable to Northwoods Homeless Shelters
- You can choose items from the list below

Bring your donations to church by Wednesday, November 12. You can find a drop-off bin in the entryway of our church. Ginny Ormsby, director of Northwoods Homeless Shelters, will be our guest presenter at Confirmation that night. We will send our offerings with her that evening. If you have any questions, please talk to Liz Dodge.

Thank you so much for your help!

### Needed items:

**diapers size 5, dish soap, disinfectant wipes, women's disposable razors, sponge mops w/mop buckets, paper towels, sponges, Kleenex, all-purpose cleaner**

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## STEVEN HOBERT CONCERT NOVEMBER 15th



Steven Hobert is well known in the Twin Cities music scene. He writes, records, plays a wide variety of genres and will fill your soul with beauty! This performance will be "Piano Explorations on Themes from Around the World."

The concert begins at 7pm in the church. A freewill offering benefitting the many projects of West Denmark will be taken.

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## BOOK DISCUSSION CONTINUES

*from Mark Hulsether*



Our next book for the December 17 meeting is Trevor Noah's memoir, *Born a Crime*. You may find used copies by searching [bookfinder.com](https://www.bookfinder.com).

Our group practice is for everyone to access the books in whatever way that seems best to them. If you want on or off the group email list, which is where among other things the zoom link for the meeting is circulated, please let Mark Hulsether know at [mhulseth@gmail.com](mailto:mhulseth@gmail.com).

## PICTURE PAGE

Picture submissions are always welcome! Whether sharing a personal triumph, local shenanigans, or WD Happenings, we want to see it! Pictures will be included in the newsletter whenever possible (as space and printing costs permit)



At West Denmark Potlucks you'll find great food and fascinating conversations!

Crafters gathered to finish quilts that were started by an earlier quilting group. These are headed to our neighbors at Redwood Recovery and other friends.



Above: The Hanneke Cassel Band fills the Sanctuary with joyous music

Left: Cordelia Strandskov and Theresa Hawthorne were joined by friends and family for a reception in the Gym Hall following their wedding ceremony; the reception was catered by Mike and Barb, with help from Mercy Wetzig, pictured with the spectacular charcuterie!



## PEANUT BUTTER PLEASE

from Barb Kass

The school year is underway and we are collecting 18 oz jars of peanut butter again for the Backpack program at the Luck school. Please watch for sales and bring to church, or make a donation earmarked Backpack program so peanut butter can be purchased and dropped off at the school. Thank you!!!

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### LOAVES & FISHES MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025

Open Tues. & Thurs. 11 – 1:00  
Lions Hall, 300 S. 1 st Street Luck, WI  
P.O. Box 554 Luck, WI 54853

# Households served 45

Luck: 28; Unity: 15

Total people: 94 (4 new people)

Adults: 75; Children: 19

Donations: Money: \$573

(Below includes TEFAP, purchased, donated)

Weight of food coming in: #2473

Weight of food going out: #2435

Volunteer hours: 56

**We can always use more volunteers!**

Contact:

Pam Girtz: 320-232-7541 or  
girtzp@gmail.com.

Gena Bugno: nobug115@yahoo.com

**SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER**



Holiday meal favorites are especially helpful at this time of year! Examples include stuffing mix, canned gravy, boxed potatoes such as Scalloped potatoes, olives, canned pumpkin pie mix, cranberry sauce, etc.

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### CONFIRMANDS TO "DISH WITH BISH"

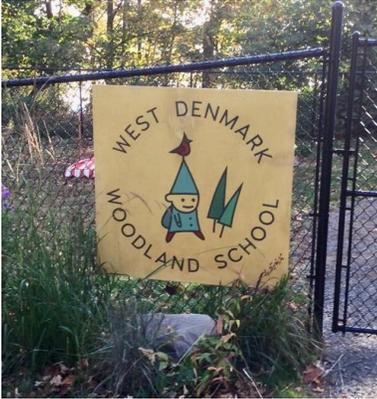
On Wednesday, November 5, from 5:30-7:30 pm, our confirmation class will be attending "Dish with the Bish" at Our Savior's Church in Amery. They will share supper, intergenerational activities, and have an opportunity to ask questions of our Northwest Wisconsin Synod Bishop, Martin Halom.



# CULTIVATING CURIOUS MINDS NATURALLY IN OUR WOODLAND SCHOOL

The West Denmark Woodland School is approaching the finishing line for State licensing as we wait to hear about scheduling onsite visits. To give you a sense of our progress to date and how we will cultivate curious minds naturally, we've compiled a collection of photos representing a virtual tour of our site. We'll gladly offer you a personal tour as well. In the upcoming week, we'll be holding a couple of Practice Walk-Throughs in preparation for licensing visits and parent tours.

## Welcome to the WD Woodland School & Nature Playscape



**Hill Slide**

**Gathering Circle**



**Music/Sound Area**



**Mud Kitchen**

*Turn the page for more from the Woodland Schools Virtual Tour!*

Liz Dodge, Nicole LaLond, and Barb Kass have been busy planning a monthly meal schedule. We plan to include, as food sources, local, organic farm foods and seasonal foods and to prep ingredients weekly in the Hall. We have needs for casserole dishes with lids, a small freezer, and several instant pots.

As for fund-raising, we recently received another Polk-Burnett Operation Round Up Grant to help us sponsor a series of seasonal family events. In addition, Al Zook continues to add up the miles for his 100-mile Fall birthday walk. If you haven't already, please consider donating to this fund-raiser and help Al celebrate his upcoming 90th birthday! (See our [wdwoodlandschool](http://wdwoodlandschool.com) website for details.)

# WD Woodland School Outdoor Trails



Trail Entrance



Winding Trail w/ Leaves



Frog Harbor



Turkey Hill Gathering Area



Rainbow Tree: End of Trail

**Plus**  
**Parsonage**  
**Spur Trail**

# WD Woodland School Indoor Areas



Gathering Area



Block Building Area



Book Browsing Area



Manipulatives



Art Studio





**Kitchen and Eating Area**



**Hallway Cubbies to Office Area**



**Plus**  
***Outdoors:*** Loose Parts Area  
(Boards, Tree Sand Pit Limbs,  
Cardboard, etc.),  
***Art/Creation Area,***  
***Garden Area, and***  
***Outdoor Storage Sheds***  
***Indoors:*** Science Studio  
and Storage Room

Visit [wdwoodlandschool.org](http://wdwoodlandschool.org) for more news and information!



# West Denmark Lutheran Church

2478 170th Street  
Luck, WI 54853

[www.westdenmark.org](http://www.westdenmark.org)

Return Service Requested

## October Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAYS

Contemplative Meditation	8:30am
Worship	10am
Fellowship time	11am

### MONDAYS

Men's Breakfast -  
Tin Shed, Frederic 7:30am

Women's Coffee  
Tin Shed, Frederic 10am  
last week of month:  
TUESDAY 1:30pm, usually Cafe Wren

### WEDNESDAY

Confirmation, Luck Lutheran, 6pm  
Choir Rehearsal 7pm

### THURSDAY

Every Other week:

ENCORE 10:00am

### SATURDAYS

AA - 9-10:30 am

## Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Events

11/6 & 11/20	Encore Group Meets
11/15	Hovert Concert (pg.6)
12/6	Cookie Walk!
12/7	Congregational Annual Meeting with Lunch

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West Denmark is a safe place  
to worship, study,  
and build relationships with God  
and others,  
regardless of race, creed, sexual  
orientation, gender identity, or cultural  
background.