

# WESTERN SPRINGS CRC

## *A Joyful Word*

September 2023

### FROM THE ELDERS

#### **A Joyful Word – Commitment to Communicate**

If you were asked, “Who invented the automobile?,” it’s likely that most would answer Henry Ford. As designer and builder of the Model T in 1908, he is often given this credit. The Model T was one of the first mass production vehicles, allowing Ford to achieve his aim of manufacturing the universal car that was affordable, simple to operate, and durable.

But the line of automobile pioneers is a long one, including not only Ford but also Charles and Frank Duryea, the first to successfully build a gasoline engine vehicle in 1893. It also includes Charles Kettering who invented the electric starter that helped make cars accessible to everyone. The list wouldn’t be complete without Ransom Olds who became the first mass producer of gasoline cars in 1901 when he built 425 vehicles.

Automobile history illustrates the same principle we find in the spiritual history of WSCRC: leadership is not a one-person job. Leadership does not rest solely with a Pastor. Now that we are vacant, the leadership lessons that Pastor Mark shared with Elders and Deacons have had to be put into practice. In fact, the Elders spent an entire meeting in July, trying to figure who was going to lead ministries and be responsible for various programs during the time without a Pastor.

What we have come to realize is that church

leadership asks a lot of us. God asks us to do things as leaders that challenges us, energizes us, and exhausts us. Each day seems to bring new leadership challenges and hard choices, even for those of us who are most experienced in our role on Council.

God can do more through our church when we embrace the gifts of the whole body. Church

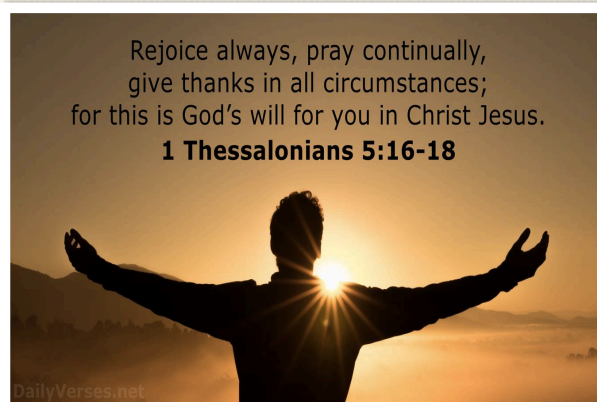
leadership today has to be adaptive. Embodying the gospel in our rapidly changing culture requires spiritual commitment to what we value as our church, a spirit of collaboration, and the humility to lift up those who are involved in various ministries of WSCRC.

Our church has been blessed with members

who give of their time to utilize their God-given talents and skills to lead or contribute to the various programs of our church. Sure, we may find some things that fall through the cracks but let’s be grateful for the willingness of Council members, the leaders of programs and those members who agree to serve on church committees.

Each month, in addition to Western Times and the weekly bulletin, “A Joyful Word.” communication tool will be sent to all members. It is designed at this time in our church life to keep us focused on the words of John 16:24, “Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” Keeping members informed promotes transparency and builds trust which is crucial in maintaining a healthy and thriving church community.

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## A Joyful Word – Pastoral Search

When a church is without a pastor, Classis provides a Counselor from outside the congregation to advise the Council in all matters pertaining to the calling of a new pastor. The Northern Illinois Classis has appointed Rev. John Huizinga, Pastor at Lombard CRC, to be our Counselor. This appointment, at our request, was approved at the September meeting of Classis.

The Search Committee is requesting assistance from the congregation to discern the person God has chosen for us to be our next pastor. We are asking each of you to complete a brief perception survey.

This will enable us to get a clearer picture of how our members see our church as it now exists and what direction we want to see our church heading in the future.

These surveys will be sent to the members via email beginning next week. They can be completed on-line and returned electronically. There will also be a direct link in the bulletin.

Hard copies will be available at the back of the church. These surveys will be sent directly to Rev. Sam Hamstra of Rukes Search Group, which is the organization we have contracted with to assist us in the search process. The Search Committee, Council and the congregation will only be provided with a summary of the results.

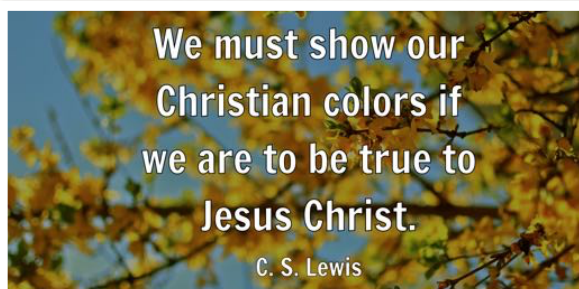
Rev. Hamstra will be with us on Sunday, October 8. He will deliver the sermon message during our morning worship service and, directly after the service, he will host a short

question and answer session about the search process.

We will also be hosting some listening sessions directed by Rev. Hamstra so that we can get feedback from the congregation about who the Lord has prepared to be our next pastor. It is important we receive as much feedback as possible so that our next pastor will be the right person God has chosen for us.

The first session will be held on Sunday, October 8, for members of Council and their spouses. A second session will be held for the entire congregation directly after the worship service on Sunday, November 5. Please try to participate in one of these sessions.

Also, please remember the Search Committee and Sam Hamstra in your prayers as we go through this process.



## A Joyful Word – Worship

Each Sunday, we have been blessed with Biblical preaching that has allowed us to practice our faith in our interactions with others by what it is we say and do. Pastor Ben, as Worship Advisor, plans the liturgical elements of all services with Renee DeJager coordinating the various aspects of music ministry. The Worship Committee with Sharon Robbert as Chair, meets monthly to review and plan services. In case you missed a Sunday morning worship service in

September, here are the links to our Church YouTube channel:

September 3 - Pastor Ben Snoek <https://youtube.com/live/9gMIUnl1cQM>

September 10 – Dr. David Van Drunen <https://youtube.com/live/SKySg5qR0Us>

September 17 – Rev. Mike Moore <https://youtube.com/live/LFLrmpb8Y-U>

September 24 – Rev. Ted Boswell. <https://youtube.com/live/ExKYv8lTrnA>

## A Joyful Word – Educational Programs and Growth Groups

This past Sunday, we were led in an educational litany as various ministries for children, youth and adults have begun. You are encouraged to be involved and support the leaders with your prayers.

Is there a book of the Bible or topic you would like to study more deeply? Are you looking for deeper community and fellowship? This fall we are looking for a few members to share leadership for Growth Groups. If you answered yes to either of the above questions please talk with Randy or Kimberly Schmurr to explore the possibilities.

*In Christ our Hope,  
Gary Smit*

## ELDERS

Gary Smit  
Randy Schmurr  
Dan Westra  
Jim Buiter  
Mike Heersink  
Tom Van Koevering

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your District Elder or reach out to Gary Smit as Chair of Council.