

January 2022

# Willerup Whispers

... To Glorify Christ in Word & Deed

## ***"I only want to do what I want to do."***

It's a familiar phrase. It's also part of our human nature to want what we want. Our heart wants what our heart wants. The Bible says, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? *"I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve."* (Jeremiah 17:9-10). Our hearts can be very dark places.

Discipleship is about training. Discipleship is about transformation. Discipleship is about becoming what God intended for us from the beginning, so that we can contribute to the expanding reign of the Kingdom of God. Your beginning, *our* beginning, was with God. *"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."* (Psalm 139:13-16). Our life belongs to God, we tend to forget that and focus on what we want. Then, we wonder why our lives seem off-kilter somehow. It's like having sand in our shorts or a pebble in our shoe. Something is not right.

January is a month on the calendar. We've been culturally formed to consider initiating something new or corrective to behavior that has somehow gotten out of control. Even non-Christians understand the need for self-correction or getting more disciplined, whether it is taking better care of our bodies, being more attentive to our most important relationships, or diving deeper into our desire for meaning and purpose.

January is as good a time as any month to truly ascend toward becoming a better follower of Christ Jesus. Jesus is the greatest trainer and teacher that ever lived. His words are institutionalized all over the world as the bedrock for relationships and for caring for others. Jesus turned over the tables of selfish gain or material reward when He said, *"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (Matthew 20:28). Fullness of life and robust Christian character will never come from seeking our own desires. The life we long for is discovered in sacrificing our will, our desires, our 'wants' in exchange for a holy sense of purpose and value. We may know this as Christian character.

Christian character is forged out of the iron of human will. Sometimes we need to get heated up, banged around a bit, cooled off, and worked on again in order to be of use for the Kingdom of God. Jesus is a master at this intense work because he works with love and admiration of the individual and knows exactly what it will take to form us into his masterpiece.

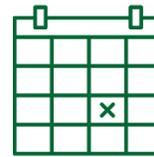


Consider all you've been through. What is Christ Jesus forming in you? Where have you hardened your heart and resisted, rebelled, or refused him? Why have you done this and how can you respond in a Christ-honoring way? Repentance.

Repentance is a beautiful reward to those who follow Christ. Stop. Turn around. He's right there behind you. Look up at his glorious face. That is what others will see in you as you become more like him. *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20). Let's try this again.

Page 2—

Calendar



Page 3—

Mission Focus



Page 4—

Current Events



Page 5—

Accountability  
Leadership  
Board Meeting  
Summary



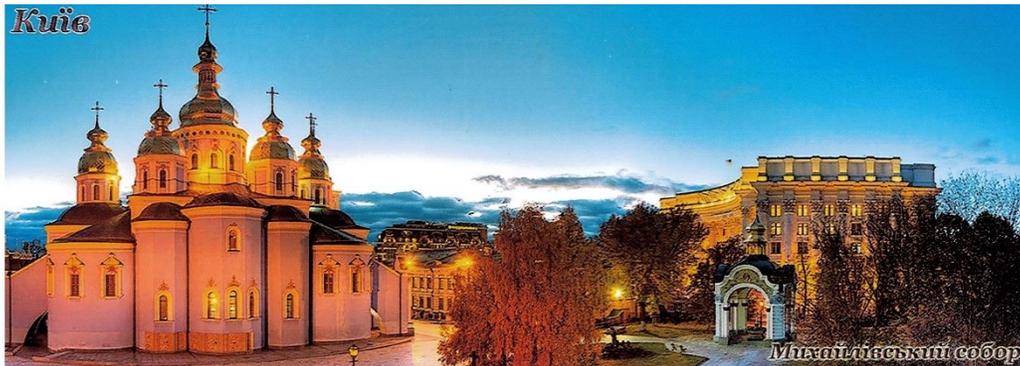
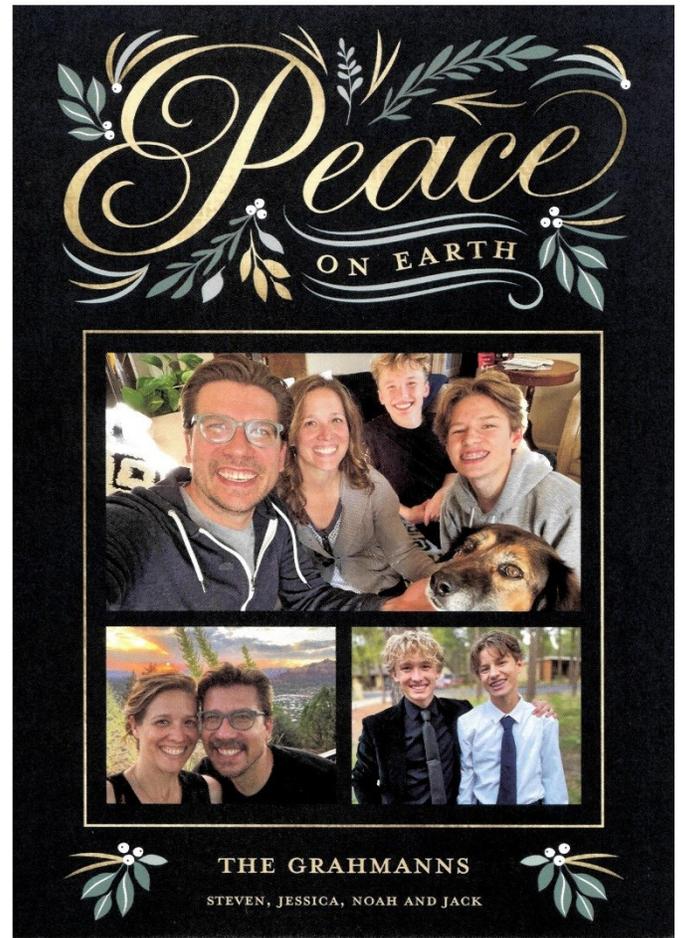
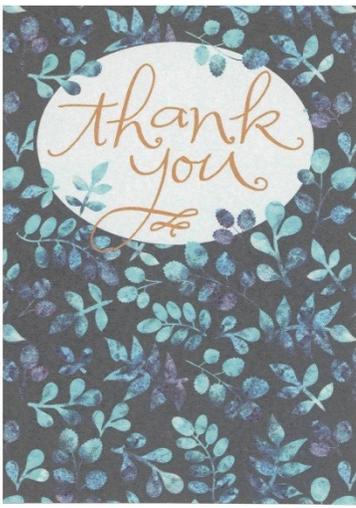


# January 2022

Cable 987  
 Sundays 4:00 pm  
 Mondays 6:30 am  
 Mondays 4:00 pm  
 Tuesdays 6:30 am  
 Tuesdays 4:00 pm

<b>Birthdays</b>		9 Owen Cooper	21 Steve Kriedeman	30 Tina Langhough
1 Robin Gieck	10 Robin Witt	22 Dawn Nelson	30 Kurt Nickelsburg	
1 Jim Jarlsberg	10 Elizabeth Kendall	24 Evan Maruszewski	30 Jeanette Retzlaff	
5 Jeremiah Padula	10 Carly Kriedeman	25 Bernadine Christianson-103!	30 Dennis Kempf	
7 Blake Gieck	14 Carl Nurmi	28 Sharon Nelson	<b>Anniversaries</b>	
8 Richard Peppey	15 Alma Dayton	29 Henny Lund	24 Steve & Mary Bielefeldt	
2 10:00am Worship	3 10:00am Knitters Group @Willerup	4 9:00am Women's Study @Willerup 6:00pm Kriedeman 6:30pm Home Again	5 11:45am Retiree Potluck 3:25pm Awana K-5th 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Kenas Group 6:30pm Legge Group	6 9:30am Pat Bryan Group
8 10:00am Worship 4:00pm Worship @ Home Again Senior Living	10 10:00am Knitters Group @Willerup	11 9:00am Women's Study @Willerup 6:00pm Kriedeman 6:30pm Home Again	12 3:25pm Awana K-5th 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Kenas Group 6:30pm Legge Group	13 9:30am Pat Bryan Group
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23 10:00am Worship 4:00pm Worship @Home Again Senior Living	24 10:00am Knitters Group @Willerup 6:30pm ALB Mtg	25 6:00pm Kriedeman Group 6:30pm Home Again Group	26 Ruby's Pantry - Jefferson 3:25pm Awana K-5th 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Kenas Group 6:30pm Legge Group	27 9:30am Pat Bryan Group
30 10:00am Worship	31 10:00am Knitters Group @Willerup	Feb 1	2	3
			4	5

Jan 1, 22  
 New Year's Day  
 8:00am Men's Study



Merry Christmas



The Cook Family  
2021

Caleb, Laura, James, Abigail, & Evelyn

### Our missionaries are thankful!

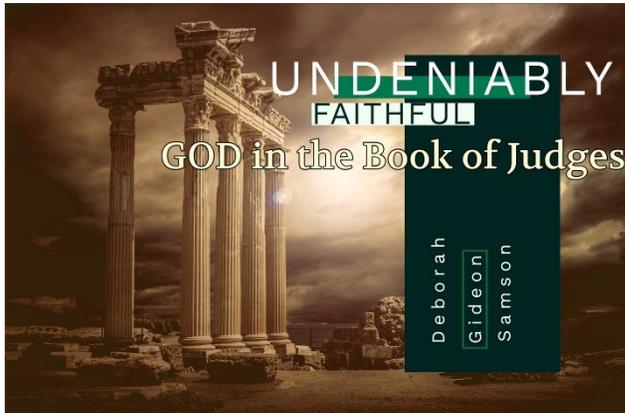
We can make a difference by supporting and encouraging these wonderful servants of the Lord, as they share His word and blessing throughout the world.

Anne Staniforth, who coordinates support for the Meseya family in South Africa sends an ornament to supporters each Christmas.

The Ely's have shared a view of a culture served by Navigators in East Asia.

And the Grahmannns, the Cooks, and the Swensons are among those who sent Christmas and Thank You cards this year.

## What's Happening at Willerup in 2022?



### **Undeniably Faithful – God in the Book of Judges**

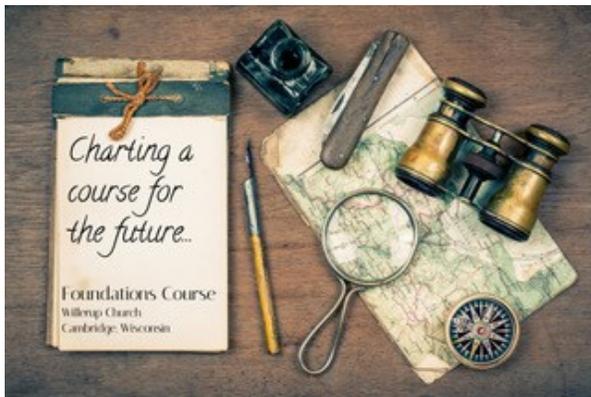
There is only one hero in this book – and He is divine. Witness God's Faithfulness, no matter how big the mess.

**\*\*Pastor Jen will teach a class on Fridays at 10am, starting Jan 14, to share additional insights on Judges!**



**Griefshare support group** will meet Feb 5-April 23. **Pastor Jen and Jeanette** are excited to co-lead. **Contact: Jeanette 608-423-3360**

**Confirmation Classes offered this spring!** Students 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up are invited. **March and April, during Lent.**



### **Foundations of our Faith - "Have you ever wanted Christian theology made simple?"**

We do! After Judges, our Lenten Sermon Series and Devotional will be just that! We will be guided by teachings from R.C. Sproul.

"R.C. Sproul has the gift of making things simple without dumbing them down. Like a father teaching his child to swim, he can bring us into waters too deep for us to touch

bottom, but he won't let us drown. So I invite you to jump into this pool of the knowledge of God. Whether you want to learn more about what makes the Bible different, who God is, why Christ died, how the Holy Spirit works in a person's soul, or what happens on judgment day ... you will find clear answers from a wise teacher." (Review by Dr. Joel R. Beeke)

**Dip your toes, Swim a lap, or Dive deep this Lent!**



**Holy Week, April 10-17** – This year, the beautifully lit Tree we sang around just weeks ago will undergo a great change, and become the Cross we bow before. **The baby whose birth we just celebrated grew up, taught, and gave His life for ours.**

### **Women's Retreat at Willerup!**

**Ladies, May 6-8<sup>th</sup>**, please join us at Willerup for a wonderful women's weekend! Those who have EARs to hear will be blessed with

**E-ncouragement  
A-ffirmation, and  
R-enewal!**



Willerup Church  
Accountability Leadership Board (ALB)  
Board Meeting of December 13, 2021, 6:30 PM  
Summary

Call To Order 6:32PM

Ron Dayton – 2021 Chair, Judy Vasby – Ministries Team, Dick Legge - SPARC, Orvin Kendall – 2022 Chair, Carl Nurmi – Lay Leader, Gerry Fosdal – 2021 Co-Trustee, Steve Kriedeman – 2022 Co-Trustee, Pastor Jen Wilson, Megan Retzlaff – Secretary, Shannon Ghorbani – Finance Team, Unable to attend: Lisa Kalata

2. Opening Prayer
3. Additions To Tonight's Agenda?
4. ALB Members Meditation and Prayer Time
5. ALB Card Ministry Requests / Messages to Send  
Note to maintain a list, separate from public minutes, of cards sent

6. Leadership Training / Message From Our Pastor

7. Monthly Regular Action Items:

- A. October 25 ALB Meeting Minutes Approval  
> Motion To Approve: Dick; Second: Gerry  
> Approved
- B. October Financial Report  
> Motion To Approve: Judy; Second: Ron  
> Approved

B. September Financial Report

- > Motion To Approve: Judy; Second: Ron
- > Approved with further research to do

8. Pastor Report / Updates / Requests

Sermon Series for 2022:

Judges

Foundations by RC Sproul, including Devotional, during Lent  
OT challenge through September

Missions in Nov

Then back to Advent

Women's conference on Mother's Day weekend May 6-8

9. ALB Member/Committee/Ministry Leader Reports

A. Trustee Team [Lisa; Gerry]

Main entrance of church, drainage problems, Dan Malinao has repaired

Brick repair needed on rear of church – will look into in future

B. Staff/Pastor Parish Team [Dick]

Insurance:

Barn service was covered

New shed is covered

Steve Kriedeman – new Trustee

Kelley Kenseth – new Treasurer

C. Lay Leadership Team [Carl] - No report

D. Ministries/Jurisdiction/Deaconess Team [Judy]  
Recent Jurisdictional – will report at a future meeting  
Goal to educate regarding probable upcoming denominational split

E. Finance / Budget Team [Shannon]

2022 apportionments amount has increased to \$22,980, about 6% increase from 2021  
Will need to be changed on 2022 Proposed Budget

F. Board Chair [Ron] – see below

10. Items Identified For Tonight's Meeting Agenda

> Good Samaritan giving request from GS Team  
Motion – Dick; Second – Judy  
Approved

> Tech updates – continuing to work with rep from the school system, long-term looking to fill an in-house position

> Deaconess Update – New Protocols [Judy]

Deaconesses have specific jobs, job titles, quantifiable goals and tasks, Serving both the church and the community

> Review Of Recent Events Takeaways [Ron]

\_\_ All Congregation Meeting – planned well, minimal attendance

Good idea. Not as many people present as we might have expected, But some also viewed on YouTube

\_\_ Charge Conference - Best to keep this meeting separate from All-Congregation Meeting, works best for both us and for District Superintendent

\_\_ Christmas In The Barn Event – very well received, well attended, barn owners Jeff & Sandy Notstad very pleased

\_\_ Tree Lighting / Caroling Event – very well received and attended, good fellowship

> Goals 2022 Plan Initiation and Status [Ron]

> Lighthouse Room Concept Future [Ron]

> Transition Needs for New ALB Members [Ron]

> Next Steps Enhanced Communications Plan [Ron]

> Next Steps For Child or Adult Sunday school Plan [Ron]

11. 2021 Goals Conclusion Status [Ron]

12. Items For January / Future Agenda:

Next meeting: January 24, 6:30 pm

Ron highlights verses: Phil 4:13, Isaiah

9:6, Psalm 46:10

13. Adjournment: Motion By: Judy; Second By: Dick

Adjourned At: 9:06 PM

14. Closing Prayer

**God Be Praised For His Presence and Care!**



## Who are We at Willerup?

### Our Mission

To **Seek** the Lost, To **Strengthen** the Lord's Disciples,  
and To **Serve** in the Lord's Kingdom

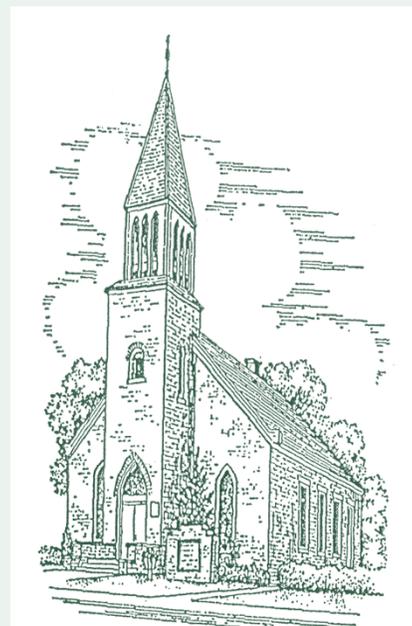
### Our Purpose

To **Glorify Christ In Word and Deed by....**

- ♥ Reaching out and receiving new people, introducing them
  - ♥ to the person of Jesus Christ.
- ♥ **Connecting people** to the community of **faith** which is growing in the **grace** and **knowledge** of the **Lord**.
  - ♥ **Developing** people to **Christ-like** maturity.
  - ♥ **Equipping** & sending **disciples** in ministry & mission.
- ♥ . . . All to the end of **exalting & honoring God's name**.

### Our Conviction

**We Believe** a Great **Commitment** to the  
Great **Commandment** and the Great **Commission**  
Will Grow a Great **Church!**



Willerup United Methodist Church  
**Accountability Leadership Board**

2022 Contact information

Some members have specialties, but any member can be contacted to share a concern or question.

Chairperson: Orvin Kendall  
Cell: 608-371-4727  
Email: [aokendall@hotmail.com](mailto:aokendall@hotmail.com)

Trustee Co-Leader: Lisa Kalata  
Cell: 920-222-0788  
Email: [ltkalata@gmail.com](mailto:ltkalata@gmail.com)

SPPRC Leader: Dick Legge  
Cell: 608-772-4738  
Email: [dblegge@charter.net](mailto:dblegge@charter.net)

Trustee Co-Leader: Steve Kriedeman  
Cell: 608-225-2255  
Email: [juliekriedy@gmail.com](mailto:juliekriedy@gmail.com)

Financial Team Leader: Shannon Ghorbani  
Cell: 832-978-9832  
Email: [shannon.ghorbani@willerupumc.org](mailto:shannon.ghorbani@willerupumc.org)  
Or [giving@willerupumc.org](mailto:giving@willerupumc.org)

Pastor Jen Wilson – non-voting member  
Parsonage Phone: 608-423-2085  
Email: [pastor@willerupumc.org](mailto:pastor@willerupumc.org)

Lay Leader: Carl Nurmi  
Home: 608-807-8524  
Email: [pkcwnurmi@gmail.com](mailto:pkcwnurmi@gmail.com)

Secretary: Megan Retzlaff – non-voting member  
Cell: 608-698-5783  
Email: [secretary@willerupumc.org](mailto:secretary@willerupumc.org)

Ministries Team: Judy Vasby  
Cell: 608-576-0173  
Email: [jvasby.office@gmail.com](mailto:jvasby.office@gmail.com)

Church Phone: 608-423-3777  
Church Email – goes to Pastor and Secretary:  
[churchoffice@willerupumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@willerupumc.org)



**The Willerup Whispers  
Newsletter**  
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January 2022 Issue

Pastor's Letter—Page 1

Calendar—Page 2

Missions Update—Page 3

Current Events—Pages 4

ALB Summary—Page 5