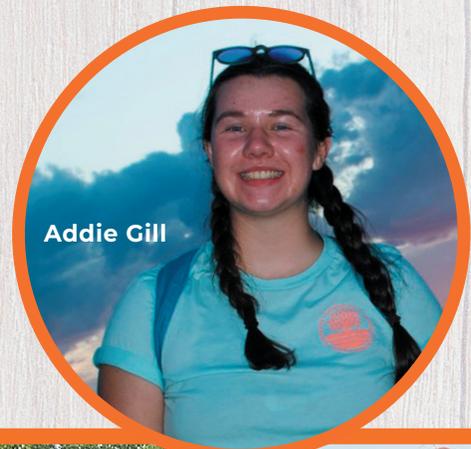


inspire

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

FALL 2022

The Fab Five



In late 2021, five college students— all lifelong friends who grew up going to church together— were reminiscing about WCC's amazing summer camp ministry. Our 2021 camp sessions at Chi Rho in Annandale had been a huge success, even with all the crazy Covid parameters in place. It was also Chris Paulson's—our beloved camp director— last summer of leading camp.

Addie Gill, Emily Dyrdaahl, Atticus Hodges, Katelyn Palasek, and Ingrid Christopherson had all been a part of summer camp starting as young kids all the way through high school — and then they continued on as counselors and program staff for the camp ministry. The values and strong faith they'd gleaned from church and camp definitely played a role in the young adults they had each become.

Emily Dyrdaahl, Katelyn Palasek, and Ben Ramert, (standing) with Atticus Hodges and Ingrid Christopherson (in front).



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH



THE FAB FIVE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In early 2022, recalled Emily, “we saw that there was no Camp director — and realized we weren’t sure if camp would happen or what it would look like, being that there probably wouldn’t be a new Director in place until very close to the start of camp. We also knew that, between the five of us, we had a lot of camp knowledge... and even though we weren’t quite sure exactly what the planning process would look like, we knew what needed to happen to prepare for launching camp the following summer.” In that moment, the “Fab Five” (as they came to be known as) became a team.

They approached Danielle Jones and asked if they could help in any way with planning another amazing summer for WCC campers. Danielle was enthusiastically supportive (“Honestly, I was so grateful they were being so proactive in this moment when we really needed their, experience, knowledge and leadership!” says Danielle) —and, Emily recalls, “we just kinda got the ball rolling from there!”

“We all worked on those pre-camp deliverables starting in January, from then on through the summer of 2022, to make sure camp ran as smoothly as possible.”

One big part of that pre-camp work was creating handbooks for each of their respective jobs to make sure that future camp staff knows what to do before the summer starts— instead of feeling like they were just thrown into it. They also wanted to make sure that the knowledge of how to run summer camp is “not just sitting in people’s brains” but in documented processes for future generations.



Emily Dyrdahl, Ana Dyrdahl, Ben Ramert, Abby Magnusson, and Atticus Hodges give the coveted “Braider Extraordinaire” award to Middle School camper, Sara Bremer.

The Fab Five all graduated from college last spring, and at camp each served in a key leadership role. Katelyn was Head Cabin Leader and Inclusion Coordinator. Emily was the Program Director. Ingrid served as Staff Director. Addie was the Work Crew Director, and Atticus served as Head Cabin Leader. “Beyond the roles they filled, the Fab Five ensured the culture of camp remained the same through a wild transition year,” said Camp Director, Steven (“Nash”) Olan. “I am so grateful for those 5 college graduates who chose one more summer of Camp staff. I cannot even begin to fathom what the summer would have looked like without their presence at camp!”

Thanks, Fab Five!



People, Purpose and Pause

BY JOHN HALLBERG
MODERATOR

As our church launches into a new program year, it's readily apparent to me that the themes I articulated at the Annual Meeting last spring are still holding true.

People

As a relatively new member of Bill Boulware's "A Team", I had the chance to see up close the impact that our Rummage Sale Ministry has both inside our WCC family and in the larger community. I stand in awe, and in admiration, of the countless hours that hundreds of church member volunteers give to make the Rummage Sale possible. The few dozen hours of service that I provided during May, June, and July pale in comparison to the commitment and dedication that so many of you give every year, and — in many cases — have given for decades. It is the people of Wayzata Community Church that makes this ministry possible.

The Sunday after the Rummage Sale (July 31st) was Camp Sunday, and the energy in the Sanctuary for worship that morning was inspiring and uplifting. We heard some amazing stories about the power of affirmation in shaping the lives of young people. Nearly 200 campers, work staff, and counselors participated in our Summer Camp, and the lives of these young people will be forever changed. Our people — of all ages — are making a difference.

Purpose

As part of a leadership institute that I am working on, I have started to read the book *Breaking the Age Code*, written by Yale Epidemiology Professor Becca Levy. Among other things, Dr. Levy studies aging, and serves as an advisor on that topic to the World Health Organization. She is best known for publishing research that confirmed that if an individual had a positive view of aging, their expected life span would be 7.5 years LONGER than someone who did not have this view. She describes that positive outlook as the will to live, and wrote: "Things that give us purpose, the feeling that we are being useful, generate will to live."

Think of that — having a sense of purpose (no matter what age) has a greater impact on life span than our genetics or other health factors in our lives — high blood pressure, obesity, etc. My hope is that the ministries of WCC — whether that is Sunday Worship, the Rummage Sale, Adult Education, etc. — are providing ways for each of us to help discover our purpose. I think the benediction we close each service with is a great challenge and an invitation to live a purposeful life. In any given week, if we can do justice, love kindness, or walk humbly with God, I think we have a sense of purpose.

Pause

The *people* of Wayzata Community Church (all ages and stages) are making a difference in each other's

“My challenge for each of us is to pause— to reflect on the gifts that we have received from God and from this church community. How many meaningful relationships do we have because of our connections to WCC?”

lives and in the larger community. If we live our lives with a sense of *purpose* (perhaps inspired by the ministries of WCC), we will live a longer, healthier life.

My challenge, then, for each of us is to pause — to reflect on the gifts that we have received from God and from this church community. How many meaningful relationships do we have because of our connections to WCC? What new or renewed sense of purpose do we each have because of our church's commitment to inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus?

This month we have launched our 2023 pledge campaign. Your financial commitments to the church make these gifts of personal relationships and meaningful purpose possible — not only for yourself but for so many others. So, I hope you will pause to consider how WCC has changed your life, and consider a gift that will allow that life-changing work to continue.

See you in church!

Welcome, Ann!



Hi, everyone! I'm Ann Hunhoff, and I am Wayzata Community Church's new Director of Middle School Ministry. I am originally from Bloomfield, Nebraska, but most recently, I lived in Forest City, Iowa where I was the Youth Missionary and Ministry Coordinator at Immanuel Lutheran Church from July 2020 to September 2022.

I began my college education at Drake University in Des Moines, IA after graduating high school in 2017, but I decided to transfer schools in late 2019 to find a program that better reflected my call to ministry. (Ask me about my call story sometime; God is pretty cool.) In November, I will be graduating from Grand Canyon University with my BA in Christian Studies with an emphasis in Youth Ministry.

I like to go on walks, curl up with a good book and a journal, and hang out at coffee shops either to study or spend time with friends. I am a diehard Nebraska Cornhusker fan (I know, I'm sorry), and I particularly enjoy following the football and volleyball teams. One of my favorite things in life is being an aunt. I have a bunch of nieces and nephews and cherish the time I get to spend with them as they grow up so quickly!

I am excited to be continuing my youth ministry career and quite thrilled to be working specifically with the Middle School age group. It is such a cool and challenging time in life when young people start to navigate independent identity formation. My priorities in working with Middle Schoolers are belonging and curiosity. I hope to build a community, creating a strong sense of belonging that allows students to know they are not just welcome and loved here at WCC, but that this space, community, and faith belong to them, as well. I will also work at cultivating, nurturing, and leaning into curiosity. Our questions, doubts, and wonderings can serve our faith so much if we allow them to. I don't want students to walk away with rigid certainty that limits their faith and understanding of God to a small box. I'd rather see all of us full of questions, wonder, and awe for Jesus. At the end of the day, we will all learn together how to love God and love one another, and we will have fun doing it, too.

Church, I am blessed to have been chosen to walk alongside you in loving and ministering to these spectacular young people. I look forward to growing in faith and growing in our God, who is Love, together.

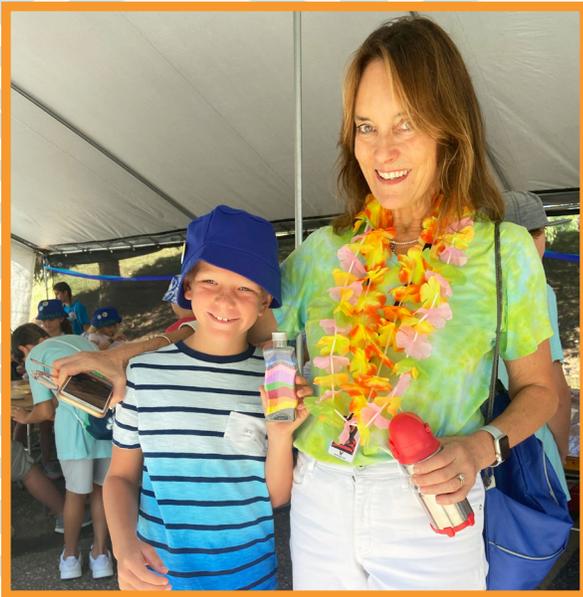
Welcome, Mike!

Hi, my name is Mike and I'm the new High School Ministry Director. Sarah and I, with our kids Sadie and Elliot, have loved getting to know you all more as we worship with you on Sundays. Switching churches can certainly be disruptive, but we have felt so welcomed throughout the process.

Our Wednesday nights are off to a great start as well, with a new energetic format full of music, games, surprises, and a message. Of course, Wednesday nights in the Loft also feature our awesome leaders delving into the joys and struggles of our High School students. There are so many ways for High School students and their families to get involved this fall, such as Confirmation (for 9th graders), our High School Retreat, and the Turkey Bowl! If we haven't yet, I look forward to meeting you!



In September we celebrated our wonderful volunteer receptionists at a luncheon in Mithun Hall! We are so grateful for these lovely women who volunteer at the reception desk each week and cheerfully greet visitors to our building, answer phones, and help with mailings and other office tasks. We appreciate each and every one of you! In photo (top row, L-R): Beverly Blomberg, Robin Carlson, MaryAnn Mead, Mary Clinton, Stacy Park, and Deva Hess, with Ashleigh Kreider and Lindy Purdy. Seated at table, L-R: Kathleen Palmer, Jan Eickhoff, and Pat Halsten. Not pictured: volunteer Kathie Challengren.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

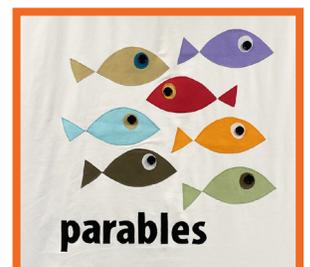
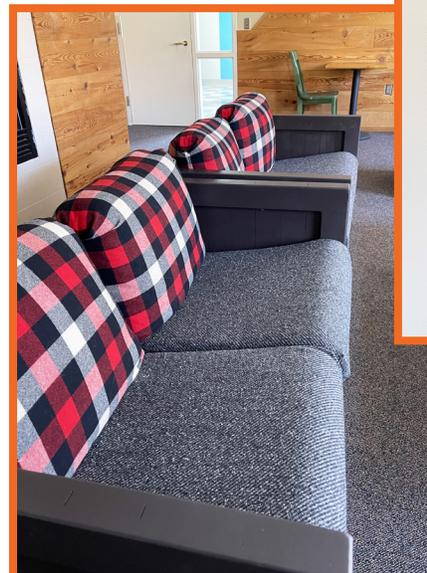
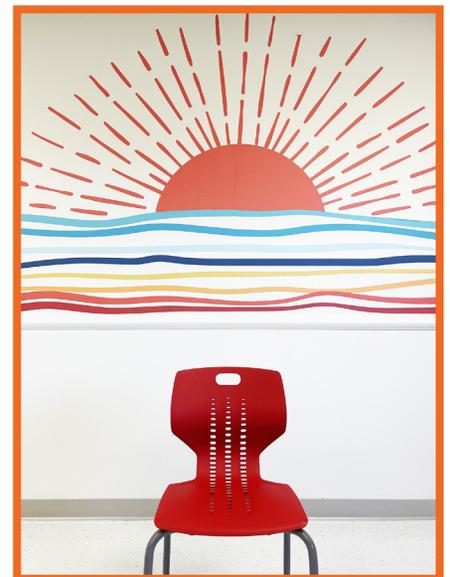
Over 150 kids, ages 3 through 5th grade, enjoyed “Making Waves” at Vacation Bible School this summer! Our church was hopping with great energy and lots of singing, dancing, learning about the Bible, art & craft projects, and being good friends to one another. Middle School and High School students served as junior counselors and counselors to the various preschool, elementary and Parables camp groups. Thanks to everyone who participated in VBS this summer!





GRACELAND REFRESH!

Graceland has recently gone under a little refresh. It goes beyond a new look. Our mission was to create accessible and inclusive spaces for all. Each room was given a fresh coat of paint, furnished with new tables and chairs and decorated with positive affirmations. Graceland is primarily used for youth ministries, but the rooms are now much more multi-purpose. All the rooms are accessible, but one room in particular was designed with our Parables Community in mind. Wayzata Community Church has a culture of inclusion for all, and now our spaces better reflect those beliefs. Special thanks to Michele and Brett Ramert, Carla Jacobson, Sonia Stark, Rick Graft, Barb Boulware, and Jodie Nyberg for their many hours spent envisioning these spaces and then making this amazing transformation a beautiful reality!





Inspire Together

BY NANCY BENEDICT, CHAIR
GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN

*Two are better than one;
because they have a good
reward for their labour.
For if they fall, the one will
lift up his fellow: but woe to
him that is alone when he
falleth; for he hath not
another to help him up.
— Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

Every Fall, we ask the people of WCC to share what they intend to gift to the church in the upcoming year in the form of pledges. Pledges are the gifts that you prayerfully consider to give to the church in the coming year for the continued mission and ministry of the church. The strength of our church depends on the generous support of all our members.

This year our Generosity Campaign theme is *Inspire Together*. We hope you have been touched by the inspirational presentations shown during services these past several weeks — and that you are reminded of the many ways we are all inspired by our church community.

Inspiring Together is seeing the first residents of Cranberry Ridge move into their new home.

Inspiring Together means providing start up support for our five Dough recipients.

Inspiring Together is launching new ministries like Mental Health, Community Caring Ministers and Parables.

Inspiring Together is creating safe places and building future leaders with our Youth and Camp Ministries.

Your pledge affirms your commitment to being an important part of how we *Inspire Together* as a church and as a community in 2023.

Thank you all for your continued support.

wccpledge.org

Please make your 2023
pledge today at
WCCpledge.org, or
contact Ashleigh Kreider
in the Business Office at
952-246-1170.



*celebrations
& transitions*

BAPTISMS

- Lynn Genevieve Hebig, daughter of Peter & Emily Hebig
- Brooks Roderick Ameluxen, son of Brian & Carlee
- Aubree Quinn Heiderscheidt, daughter of Joseph & Laura
- Todd Harrington Repass IV, son of Kate & Todd
- June Doris Exsted, daughter of Samantha & Todd
- Lindsey Renee Lewis, daughter of Benjamin & Emily
- Sasha Rose Hein, daughter of Emily & Kevin
- Rae Elizabeth Cooney, daughter of Madeleine & Daniel
- Ella Shirl Crow, daughter of Rachel & Michael
- Axel Scott Knutson, son of Andrew & Natalie

CARES

If we can be helpful before or during your hospital stay, please call our Pastoral staff at the church, 952-473-8877.

CONDOLENCES

- Family and friends of Karen Ryding, who died on May 20, 2022.
- Sandy Nebel, daughter of Don Emery, who died on June 5, 2022.
- Margaret Green on the death of her husband, James Green, on June 5, 2022.
- Abi Englund, on the death of her grandfather, Paul Englund on June 7, 2022 and her grandmother, Charlotte Englund on June 24, 2022.
- Pam Nymo on the death of her aunt, Bonnie Tomczyk, on June 30, 2022.
- Rose Minor on death of her husband, Gary Minor, on July 10, 2022.
- Marjorie Johnson and family on the death of her husband, Mark Johnson on July 21, 2022.
- Family and friends of Pat Doan, who died on August 3, 2022.
- Natalie Engel on the death of her mother, Elizabeth Engel, on August 10, 2022.
- Max Wilhelm on the death of husband, Dale Wilhelm, on August 23, 2022.
- JoEllen Willman and Preston Grundy on the death of father and grandfather, Dean Willman, on September 6, 2022.
- Heather Gay and family on the death of her mother, Sharon Gay, on September 15, 2022.
- George Hansen, son of George Hansen III, who died on October 4, 2022.

Inspire Magazine

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mbaehr@wayzatacommunitychurch.org



Inflection Points

BY JOHN ESTREM, DIRECTOR OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Lately I've been walking through the hallways of our church, remembering walking the same halls as a young man. I'm so amazed at how life works out. Back in my twenties it was incomprehensible to me just how much love my heart could hold.

Now, I'm sending my son Andrew off for his 2nd year of college. We prayed together before he drove off. Then I went through a litany of "dont's" and "be carefults" — ending with tears in my eyes, saying "remember your Chapstick!" Thinking about Lisette, and all of our children, I never, ever, could have imagined the depth of love I feel.

This brings to mind this thing called an "inflection point". An inflection point can be a sudden change or coincidental moment — a turning point that can happen in an instant, but that we may not even identify as pivotal or life-changing until long after it occurs. But inside each one of these inflection points is the greatest power to change — if you can manage the stress that these inflection points can bring. You have an opportunity to hone yourself. (I love the word "hone"; it means to sharpen, refine, and perfect over time.) In these moments we can ask ourselves, "What's the potential in this moment?" "What does God have in mind for me?" "How can I visualize a new path, even a new future?"

In my own life there have been so many inflection points — most of which I've missed. One of the big inflection points in my life was 41 years ago, at one of the lowest points in my life. I had stopped to fill the orange taxi cab I was driving with gas at the Total gas station in Hopkins.

Much to my surprise, my former boss, Tom, was at the next pump over. He warmly greeted me and told me about a job at Wayzata Community Church. In that exact moment, this connection was just something that happened. Ten years from that moment it was: "Oh!" Twenty years from that date: "Interesting!" Thirty years: "Oh, wow, that really was quite a coincidence!" Forty years later, I know— "That moment was a miracle! One that actually saved my life, when I was able to say, 'Lord, here I am!'"

These inflection points happen in everyone's lives. Inflection points also happen in families, communities, and countries. I also believe they happen in churches. I remember a congregational meeting at Wayzata Community Church where we made the decision to build the new Sanctuary. For some members it was difficult because they wanted their church to stay the same. But, as does most growth in life, change comes with some pain or discomfort. I cannot count the number of times I have stood in the packed Sanctuary since then and thought back to that meeting where "we could not see what God could." We lean into our faith. Even as we hesitate or maybe even doubt, we are asked to trust the timing, the opportunity. We trust God. We stand in those moments and say "Lord, here I am."

My prayer for my family, for you, and for our beloved faith community is that you are able to see and hone yourself in these difficult and exquisite moments. That you can draw close to the soil and harvest. For there will always be a harvest when we are faithful, under the care and guidance of a God who loves us.

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PERIODICAL
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

The Rummage Sale



CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL 100TH RUMMAGE SALE!

How do you measure the success of the 100th Wayzata Community Church Rummage Sale? If you judge by the revenue, expenses and remainder donated to organizations chosen by our Mission & Outreach Board, we did very well. However, the Rummage Committee and our amazing volunteers have different values — the smiles on the thousands of faces, the ability to meet the needs of our guests and WCC members and donors (if measured by the amount of merchandise remaining, we were super successful), long lines waiting to shop, and welcoming many new volunteers. Few programs have a century of history meeting needs and making friends. Volunteers and customers return year after year. Some families plan their summer reunions around the Sale. Calls have already started asking for next year's dates! The Sale embodies and demonstrates to everyone our middle name – "Community." **See you in 2023!**