West Hills Window

On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others, and the world

October 2026

Generosity

By Jason Scheopner, Elder of Stewardship

Have you noticed that we are surrounded by advertisements, billboards, commercials, and social media feeds designed to create urgency: "Going fast!", "Only 2 left!", or "Don't miss this!". Marketers know we do not want to miss out, so they lean on scarcity to move us to action. But Christian stewardship begins from a better truth: God's abundance, not the world's anxiety, is what calls us to respond.

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:10

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.

Ephesians 3:20

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

These passages remind us that our God is a God of abundance. When we hold fast to this truth, our mindset shifts. We move from fear of not having enough to trust that God provides enough for faithful, generous living.

Generosity is one of the fruits of this change in mindset. The Reverend Dr.

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Maruice Emelu, a professor at John Carroll University writes, "God's Word invites us to the embrace of radical generosity—not only in our giving but in our openness to the diverse and surprising ways God's spirit moves in the world". Generosity is our joyful response to seeing God's radical generosity for us. In Ami Campbell's 2019 TEDx Talk, "Radical Generosity is a Way of Living, Not an Act of Giving", she re-frames the generosity question this way: "consider not what I can afford to give away, but what do I really need to keep".

Generosity is where that shift becomes visible. Commitment Sunday is November 1, and now is the time to take three faithful next steps:

1. Evaluate your 2026 giving.
2. Confirm that you are on track to fulfill or exceed your Capital Campaign commitment.
3. Prayerfully discern how you will offer your time, talent, treasure, and energy in 2027.

What one small, regular step can you take next year to increase how you support the West Hills community and serve the God of abundance.

Please help us finish the Capital Campaign strong and prayerfully consider what new step God may be calling you to take in 2027 as you share your time, talent, treasure, and energy.

Come Craft with Us!

By Libby Dolezal, Caregiving Outreach Deacon

Caregiving to me is all about creating bonds with people that we can walk through life with, no matter what path in life we each originally come from. It is about fostering love between people, lifting them up in their joy, and being there to support them when they need it. That is why I am happy to announce that we have restarted our knit and crochet club! It has only been a few months since we started meeting again, but I have seen many new friendships blossom already.

For years, West Hills Church had a knit and crochet club, but as with many groups, it stopped meeting during the COVID-19 lock-downs and didn't start back up again for a while. In restarting the club, we hoped to rekindle that place of fellowship for our West Hills family and friends, but we have found something beautiful in creating a community of crafters. Some of our members have even helped with other ministries to make the lovely prayer shawls and baby blankets for caregiving outreach.

If you are interested in joining the knit and crochet club, we have not one, but two meeting times in the hope that as many people who want to come, can, and to whichever one works best for their schedule.

- Daytime Meeting - Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 10 am in Room 207 (in the Chapel hallway)
- Evening Meeting - Every Friday at 6:30 pm in Room 207 (in the Chapel hallway)

You can also always come to both if you would like to or only one here and there. We would love to see you no matter what the case is!

As well, no worries if you don't know how to knit or crochet. If you would like to learn either one, there are people at both meeting times who will be more than happy to teach you basic stitches and share beginner level patterns. We hope that you'll join us at the knit and crochet club!

Christian Women of Vision

By Peg Shirley; Elder of Mission & Dorothy Tanwani; Project Officer for Christian Women of Vision

This month's Mission Article will be slightly different since the article was actually written by our amazing contact at Christian Women of Vision, Dorothy Tanwani!

Dear friends and partners in Christ at West Hills Presbyterian Church,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I am Dorothy Tah Tanwani, Project Officer of Aid International—Christian Women of Vision (AI-ChrisWOV or ChrisWOV) writing to you with deep gratitude and joy as we commemorate 14 years of faithful partnership from 2012 to 2026.

History and Partnership Journey

I am the link that God used to link AI-ChrisWOV and West Hills Church Omaha in June 2012. During this year, I came to Omaha in a PCC Sunday School team with Rev. Dr. Ngwa Julius. Besides presenting the Sunday School activities in the congregation, I was also asked to talk on widowhood in Cameroon—mourning ceremonies, customary rites, and the plight of widows of the Northwest.

Generally, widows suffer gender-based violence—domestic, psychological, physical, and economic violence, denial of inheritance, and widow inheritance (where a widow is expected to marry the brother of her deceased husband. Most women were battered into submission with an erroneous quotation of Ephesians 5:22-24 and abusive customary values that man is the head of the family. In 2012, my audience was the Serenity Women, a Bible study group, and the next day I spoke to the Session of the Church under the leadership of Pastor George Moore. They listened with passion and were committed to support AI-ChrisWOV to improve the livelihood of vulnerable people. As a Christian church, this support extended to our beloved annual Christmas event where we provide a Christ-love joint meal and nutritional support to all our beneficiaries. During my 2012 exchange visit, I lived in the homes of Karen Lofgren-Anderson and Jeff and Esther Smith. They treated me as family. I also extend appreciation to members of the congregation who gave spontaneous donations to support ChrisWOV. There was also significant support from the Sunday school of Omaha to provide a complete public address system for the Sunday school of P.C. Musang in Bamenda. This is how the link started in 2012 and it is ongoing. The congregation kept the link through Caitlin O'Hare, Peg Shirley, and the mission team. In 2023, I visited West Hills Church again, led by Pastor Andy Hamer, who gave me the opportunity to speak in Church on behalf of AI-ChrisWOV. Many individuals again spontaneously donated to promote our work in Bamenda.

Our Gratitude and Testimonies

First, we at AI-ChrisWOV would like to express our deepest gratitude to WHC Omaha. You have walked with us every year since we met as partners in 2012. The congregation has been faithful in sending quarterly funding every year. In 2025, God's Gift Shop extended support for Christmas. Your faithful support has strengthened our work and touched many lives.

Regina shared, "I had lost hope, but through the ChrisWOV program I was trained and provided with start-up capital to rent a small vegetable garden. Now I can provide basic food for my family and I sell the surplus at the market."

Gracious, a seamstress in training, said the crisis in the northwest and ban on regular schooling caused her to get involved with another school dropout youth. She became pregnant and was forced to marry the boy. The prayers and encouragement she received gave her strength to start again.

Michael, a youth in training on metal work, said he lost both parents and his elder brother who brought him up was violently killed. ChrisWOV came in to pay for his training. "This is nothing but answered prayers."

Fabian, received skills training and today is running his own small business.

Another widow (and many others) said the food and counseling support at Christmas came at a time she needed it most.

Moreen, a young widow at 27, said she and her 2 sons have seen God's hand at work. On the death of her husband she refused to be transferred as a wife to the next male of her husband's family. ChrisWOV trained her and provided school fee support to her two children. Without this help they could have been languishing in illiteracy and poverty.

Blessing, who now has a degree in electrical engineering, said without the fee support from ChrisWOV she could never have reached this level.

The outreach brought healing, dignity and hope to our community and for all these years we have been able to stay present for those who have no one else. We pray God's hand continues to be upon your church.

What your support has made possible

Al-ChrisWOV's focus remains on improving livelihoods and restoring hope for vulnerable widows, orphans, GBV survivors, and PLWHIV. Due to the crisis we have extended our support to the internally displaced persons (IDP).

With your support over the years, we have been able to:

- Train widows and GBV survivors in skills and provide startup support for small businesses.
- Pay school fees and provide care for orphans.
- Run support groups and fight stigma for PLWHIV.
- Offering counseling and safe spaces for healing.
- Annual Christmas love meal.
- Support the IDPs.

Looking ahead to 2026/2027

The need continues to grow, especially here in the northwest with the political crisis. For 2026/27 we are asking for continued partnership to expand our hands of hope program. With your support, we plan to reach out to 100 widows and GBV survivors with livelihood training and 200 orphans with school and care support.

Thank you for your love, your prayers and your consistent generosity since 2012. We pray that God who began this good work in us will continue to complete it.

May God bless your church abundantly as you continue to bless others through us.

With Gratitude,
Dorothy Tanwani

Young Life Capernaum

By Steve Burgess

Young Life Capernaum gives young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the chance to experience fun and adventure, to develop fulfilling friendships and to challenge their limits while building self-esteem through club, camp, and other exciting activities.

Capernaum began in 1986 in San Jose, California, when a teacher began getting to know students in a Special Education class. Pam Moore started a Young Life ministry to young people with special needs at West Hills Church in 1995 that was called "Partners". A few years after that it was renamed Capernaum which made it the second Young Life Capernaum club in the country. And they have been meeting at West Hills Church ever since.

Over that time, there have been many members of West Hills who have volunteered to help out with the club—including Hal Capps and Norlin Parker. While researching this article, I learned that the Biblical definition of Capernaum means "city of comfort". What an appropriate name for a ministry that reaches out to young people with disabilities.

Capernaum is always looking for volunteers—both adult and youth. Currently, they are hoping to find some young people to serve as "Buddies". These young people would meet with the Capernaum Club each week to help out, and connect with special needs children. Capernaum also has a bake sale at West Hills Church in the spring to raise money for kids to go to camp in the summer.

Capernaum currently meets on Thursday evenings at West Hills Church during the school year. They "kicked off" this school year on August 27th with a swim party at Pine Grove RV Park. Their first club at West Hills Church then occurred on Thursday, September 3rd. The theme for the club that day was "Ice Breaker Club", this gave everyone the chance to get to know one another better by asking them questions about what they like to do and eat. One of the themes for this year's club is teaching kids that they are invited to come to God's Banquet. They will also be teaching them about God's creation.

Memories: Crossroads Connection Service & Meal

October 2026 At A Glance

On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others, and the world

				1 Lutheran Family Services Personal Care Drive Begins Thursday Morning Bible Study for All (275): 9:30 - 11 am	2 Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 6:30 - 8:30 pm	3
4 Discipleship Hour: 8:45 - 9:45 am For His Children Speakers (Chapel): 9 - 9:45 am Worship: 10 am Youth Group (307): 11:30 am	5	6 Men's Bible Study (182): 7 - 8 am Large Group InGathering (Fellowship Hall): 6:30 pm	7 Women's Bible Study (Chapel): 9:30 - 11 am Women's Bible Study (Chapel): 6 - 7:30pm Men's Bible Study (275): 7 - 8 pm	8 Thursday Morning Bible Study for All (275): 9:30 - 11 am	9 Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 6:30 - 8:30 pm	10
11 Discipleship Hour: 8:45 - 9:45 am 2026 Bible Reading Project Discussion (Chapel):9 - 9:50 am Worship: 10 am	12	13 Men's Bible Study (182): 7 - 8 am Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 10 am - 12 pm	14 Women's Bible Study (Chapel): 9:30 - 11 am Women's Bible Study (Chapel): 6 - 7:30pm Men's Bible Study (275): 7 - 8 pm	15 Thursday Morning Bible Study for All (275): 9:30 - 11 am Sloppy Joe Drop Off (North Entry): 9 am - 4 pm	16 Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 6:30 - 8:30 pm	17 Table Talk (Fellowship Hall): 9:00 - 10:30 am

18 Discipleship Hour: 8:45 - 9:45 am Worship: 10 am Youth Group (307): 11:30 am	19	20 Men's Bible Study (182): 7 - 8 am Session Meeting (275): 6 - 8 pm	21 Women's Bible Study (Chapel): 9:30 - 11 am Heartland Hope Volunteer (Off-site): 9:30 - 11:30 am Women's Bible Study (Chapel): 6 - 7:30pm Men's Bible Study (275): 7 - 8 pm	22 Thursday Morning Bible Study for All (275): 9:30 - 11 am	23 Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 6:30 - 8:30 pm	24
25 Discipleship Hour: 8:45 -9:45 am Worship: 10 am	26	27 Men's Bible Study (182): 7 - 8 am Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 10 am - 12 pm	28 Women's Bible Study (Chapel): 9:30 - 11 am Women's Bible Study (Chapel): 6 - 7:30pm Men's Bible Study (275): 7 - 8 pm	29 Thursday Morning Bible Study for All (275): 9:30 - 11 am	30 Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 6:30 - 8:30 pm	31 Lutheran Family Services Personal Care Drive Ends

Recurring Weekly Events

Recurring Monthly/Quarterly Events

One Time Events

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Mission Drive of the Month: Personal Care Products Drive

By Kathy Padilla

When my family and I moved to Omaha in 1994, many folks at West Hills Church were eager to tell me about the 1975 tornado that destroyed a lot of property not far from the church. They were proud to share how the congregation stepped up and helped in the recovery effort. For more than 60 years, the people of West Hills Church have sought to be good neighbors to the Westgate community.

Churches are often approached by people in need of assistance of all kinds. Many of our staff and front desk volunteers have fielded calls over the years from people looking for help paying their rent or their electricity bill. Sometimes, people come to the door looking for help.

A couple of months ago, a man named Brian rang the bell at about 3:30 in the afternoon. I met him at the door and asked how I could help. He told me he had been sleeping outside for the last few nights because he had nowhere else to go. He wanted to know if we could give him some money. I explained that we weren't really set up to give cash assistance, but I knew of some resources that might help.

We have a list of phone numbers for places like the Stephen Center and the Sienna Francis House. As I wrote down some numbers for him, Brian began to tell me some of his life story. He said he had lived in the neighborhood as a child and had come to some events at the church. He was struggling with substance abuse and was estranged from his family and friends. I offered him the opportunity to use our restroom. I made him a cup of hot chocolate and found some packets of crackers for him. I asked if I could pray with him and add him to our prayer chain. He agreed. Some of you have prayed for Brian a few months back.

My encounter with Brian was one of a series of encounters like this at the front desk. As a staff, we asked if there was more we could do. Randy Green, our director of Mission Management, informed us that Lutheran Family Services, the organization that had connected us with a refugee family a couple of years ago, had recently moved it's headquarters to Center Street, right next to Heafey Hoffman Dworak Cutler Mortuary, our longtime neighbor with whom we have worked closely with over the years for funerals of members.

Lutheran Family Services has a church liaison, Jens Acomo, who welcomed me for a tour of the facility, just a two-minute drive from our west parking lot. In addition to help settling refugees, LFS supports foster families by collecting furniture, clothes, and toys for foster children. They also have social workers and drug counselors.

Jens shared with me that if someone comes to our door and would like the help of LFS, they will meet them and assign them a case manager who will help them navigate their way through all the agencies that provide assistance to folks in need. We are thrilled to have this amazing resource in our neighborhood.

Jens has invited West Hills Church to collect personal care products in the month of October. These products will be available to refugee families, foster families, and those who are struggling with unstable housing situations. If you would like to donate some items to our new neighbor, Lutheran Family Services, please place them in the collection spot in the Geneva Lounge. Thank you!

September Table Talk

All of us deal with some level of anxiety as a part of daily living, but Jesus does not want anxiety to limit us, cripple us, or rob us of His joy. In 1 Peter 5:7 it states, "Give all your worries and cares to God for He cares about you". Using this verse along with other scriptural and practical wisdom, Deena Candler will be addressing how we can unpack our anxieties as Christians at our next Table Talk on Saturday, October 17 from 9 - 10:30 am.

Our Table Talk series had a strong launch in September, but remember—each Table Talk is a "stand alone event" so you can join in any or all of the remaining five talks this ministry year. Table Talks are intentionally designed to bring us closer to God and one another plus participating in a talk is a great way to start your weekend and recharge your faith. You do not need to sign up. Just show up and God will be there to bless you!

Upcoming Table Talks

Each Table Talk is approximately 90 minutes long. Table Talks for Fall 2026 will be on Saturday morning—a great way to kick off your weekend!

- Saturday, October 17th at 9 am
- Saturday, November 21st at 9 am
- *No Table Talk in December or January

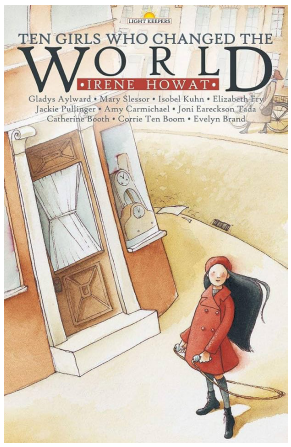
September '26 Session Notes

At the September Session Meeting our Elders:

- Discussed church security and congregational safety.
- Discussed congregational care through attendance tracking and follow-up.
- Approved a motion to grant a temporary leave of absence to our Elder for Spiritual Formation and Discipleship, Julie Zimmerman. Due to health reasons, the leave began immediately and will continue through the end of March 2027.
- Approved a motion to appoint a member of the congregation to temporarily assume responsibilities associated with the Elder of Spiritual Formation and Discipleship—with the understanding that this person would be accountable to Session and cannot be a voting member of the Session.
- Approved a motion to update the old friendship pads and begin passing them during Sunday worship services.
- Approved a motion to present the 'West Hills Has Talent' form to the congregation.
- Approved a motion to allow the option to elect an additional Elder during our congregation's Annual Election of Officers in November. If necessary, this would allow two Elders to be elected to serve jointly as the Elders of Finance and to share the duties of that position.

Book Suggestions

By Debbie Chadwick



The children's book *Ten Girls Who Changed the World* written by Irene Howat is part of her Lightkeepers series; Christian biographies for children aged 7 – 12 years old. Included in the book are the stories of:

- Corrie ten Boom; a Dutch Christian watchmaker who risked her life to hide Jews during World War II
- Joni Eareckson; an American evangelical Christian who founded the organization Joni and Friends that accelerates Christian ministry in the disability community
- Isobel Kuhn; a Canadian Christian missionary to the Lisu people of China and northern Thailand
- Mary Slessor and Catherine Booth; Co-founders of the Salvation Army
- And more amazing women

Author Irene Howat, according to Goodreads, is an award-winning author who has many titles, for adults and children, to her name. She is married to a retired minister and their children are grown up now. She is also a talented artist and now resides in Ayrshire, Scotland, where she enjoys reading letters from children and even replies to all of them!

Happy Birthday!

October

1 - Arlo Grafton
Kenneth Kopperud
Luke Freeman

2 - Dan Freeman
Diana Dingman
Trish Mathia
Dale Obermiller

6 - Bill Spiecker

7 - Aedan Madigan

8 - Adam Weaver

9 - Mack Hanna

12 - Ginny Lakin

13 - Peggy Kelley

14 - Helen Jacobsen

15 - Chris Cook
Annie O'Reilly

16 - Blake Anders

17 - Katrina Thede
Blaze Garcia

18 - Ben Sedivy

20 - Tom Backer
Jackie Madigan

21 - Bill Heise
Aaron Schaffer

25 - Aalilah Rios

26 - Marilyn Grafton

27 - Roxie Frazier

November

2 - Judy Schnabel
Beckett Dunn

5 - Nathanael O'Reilly

7 - Bruce Workman
Dorothea Brady
Carolyn Reeves

8 - Hannah Weller

9 - Juliana Scheopner

10 - Rich Voshell
Catie Schopener

11 - Denise Dolezal

13 - Ginny Jansen
Nicole Burns

15 - John Kotouc
Charissa Wells

The complete list of November birthdays will be in the November newsletter.

Celebrations of West Hills!

At West Hills Church, we love to share and celebrate God's faithfulness in all areas of our lives. Here are the latest milestone celebrations for congregation members and their relatives in the month of September. If you'd like to let us celebrate something in your or a relative's life, email alene@whcomaha.org to be included in the next Newsletter!

- Mike and Sheryl Overby celebrated 40 years of marriage!

Bible Quiz

By Gloria Zinn

1. What wood was used to make the Ark of the Covenant? (Exodus 37:1)
A) Gopher wood
B) Acacia wood
C) Cedar
D) Olive

2. Which prophet was told to lie on his left side for 390 days to symbolize the years of Israel's sin? (Chapter 4:1-5)
A) Jeremiah
B) Isaiah
C) Ezekiel
D) Isaiah

3. Who was Jesus eating with when a woman came in and kept kissing Jesus' feet? (Luke 7:38-40)
A) A Sadducee
B) A Pharisee
C) Simon
D) His disciples

4. What exiled king of Judah was treated kindly by the Babylonian king who replaced his prison clothes with new clothes and gave him a regular food allowance for life? (2 Kings 25:29-30)
A) King Jehoiachin
B) King Manasseh
C) King Zedekiah
D) King Josiah

5. Who was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from his birth until his death? (Judges 13:7)
A) John the Baptist
B) Samuel
C) Saul
D) Samson

6. Who called the Gentiles "uncircumcised heathens"? (Ephesians 2:11)
A) the Romans
B) the Jews
C) Peter
D) Paul

****Bible Quiz Answers are on back page****

7. What is God's guarantee that He will give us the inheritance he promised? (Ephesians 1:14)
A) the Bible
B) the New Testament
C) the Holy Spirit
D) Jesus Christ

8. What does Revelation tell us what happened to the beast and the false prophets? (Revelation 19:20)
A) They were thrown into the bottomless pit
B) They were trampled by 1000 horses
C) They were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur
D) They were killed by the sharp sword of the one riding on the white horse

9. What group mobilized all their forces to capture David when they heard he had been anointed king of Israel? (2 Samuel 5:17)
A) Jebusites
B) Philistines
C) Moabites
D) Edomites

10. Who was ruling over Judah the same time Jeroboam was ruling over Israel? (2 Chronicles 13:1)
A) Abijah
B) Rehoboam
C) Jehoram
D) Ahaziah

11. After Peter's speech during Pentecost, about how many people were baptized and added to the church that day? (Acts 2:41)
A) 1000
B) 2500
C) 5000
D) 3000

12. What did Zipporah do which saved Moses' life?
A) killed a poisonous snake
B) showed him the right path to Egypt
C) circumcised her son
D) warned him of an impending tribe

west hills CHURCH
3015 S 82 Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68124
402-391-8788
whcomaha.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. B
2. C
3. B & C
4. A
5. D
6. B
7. C
8. C
9. B
10. A
11. D
12. C