

# WEST HILLS WINDOW

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

November 2025



## Stewards of His Temple III

By Dick Frandeen; Elder of Building & Grounds

*"They were responsible for taking care of the ark of the covenant law. They took care of the table for the holy bread. They took care of the lampstand and the two altars. They took care of the things used for serving in the sacred tent. They also took care of the inner curtain. In fact, they had to take care of everything connected with the use of all those things." Number 3:31*

*"Every house is built by someone. But God is the builder of everything." Hebrew 3:4*

Last year, we celebrated the completion of two major Capital Campaign projects: the new Geneva Lounge and upper hallway carpeting, both warmly received, and the resurfaced West parking lot, completed just in time for a safer winter. Thanks to your generous giving, including some accelerated contributions, we accomplished these priorities in the Campaign's first year. However, limited funding deferred the East parking lot resurfacing to a future date.

Entering Year 2 this January, we anticipated lower contributions due to last year's accelerated giving. As expected, 2025 Campaign receipts through September totaled \$108,600—below our initial projections—and we've continued to fund the critical Maintenance and Emergency Reserves, limiting resources for larger projects. Despite this, we've made significant progress:

- **New Equipment:** Purchase of a new kitchen stove, freezer, and commercial carpet cleaner for the Geneva Lounge and other areas.
- **Improved Lighting:** Brighter LED fixtures in Fellowship Hall, with ongoing ceiling tile replacements.

### In This Issue

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Elder Article     | 1  |
| Deacon Article    | 2  |
| Book Suggestions  | 3  |
| Table Talk        | 4  |
| Session Notes     | 4  |
| Narrative Grace   | 4  |
| Birthdays         | 6  |
| Bible Quiz        | 7  |
| Memories          | 8  |
| Month At A Glance | 10 |

- **Window Maintenance:** Volunteers caulked, sanded, and painted the worst West wing and Chapel windows to prepare for winter.
- **New Signage:** Improved signage has been placed at the outside doors.
- **Enhanced Accessibility:** A generous West Hills family donated a new chair lift for the North entrance stairway to the Fellowship Hall.

Unfortunately, an HVAC unit heating the office area requires replacement, drawing from the Emergency Reserve.

Looking ahead to 2026, the final year of our Campaign, we're excited about what your continued support can achieve. While not all original projects will be completed, we're on track to address top priorities and fully fund the Maintenance Reserve for the next three years. We are planning for needed window replacement, Fellowship Hall upgrading, parking lot resurfacing and Sanctuary improvements. These efforts will ensure that our building remains a vibrant space to glorify God and serve all who worship and gather here. The Building and Grounds Team extends heartfelt thanks to our volunteers for their Spring and Fall clean-up efforts and on-going maintenance work. Special gratitude goes to our Custodial Team —John Good, Ricardo Lopez, and Don Good— for their tireless dedication, and to the Building and Grounds Team for their invaluable time and advice.

Above all, thank you, West Hills family, for making these improvements possible. We look forward to even more progress together!

## *Caregiving Caroling: Make a Joyful Noise!*

*By Angie Arner; Deacon of Homebound Ministry*

We honor a cherished tradition. As I reflect on our traditions throughout the years, I recently had the chance to look through many past issues of *The Window*, where I noticed that Caregiving Caroling has always been highlighted as a special annual event. This beloved tradition was first introduced to us by Pastor Deena Candler during

her time as our Pastor of Caregiving.

Our West Hills Caregiving Ministry Team has a special mission. Each December, the West Hills Caregiving Ministry Team is honored to continue the “**Chili and Caroling**” tradition. Our ministry is dedicated to caring for our church family members who can no longer attend worship in person, have special needs, or are unable to live independently. It is our calling to encourage and uplift those who are facing challenges during this season. Through this event, we remind our homebound members that they are never forgotten—they remain a vital part of our church body. By sharing the Good News of Christmas, we are all blessed in return.

Our primary goal is to gather and sing for those who may be experiencing difficulties this season. Caregiving Caroling is much more than just singing; it is about sharing fellowship, enjoying a meal, and celebrating the birth of Jesus with our church family. After a hearty bowl of chili or chicken noodle soup and some delicious treats, participants form groups and carpool to visit and sing with our homebound members. All organized details are taken care of, so participants can simply come and enjoy the experience.



This event is open to all—regardless of age, musical talent, or role in the church. Whether you are part of the worship team or unsure if you can carry a tune, your participation is welcome! We never know how God will work through our “singing testimonies” to touch someone’s heart. At every stop, Jesus is present in our caroling.

Children’s involvement adds immeasurable joy to the event. We invite your children and grandchildren to sing, dance, “jingle some bells”, and give out stockings, cards, and hugs. Their presence blesses not just our homebound friends, but also other residents we meet at care centers. The event is designed to be child-friendly and is truly enriched by the participation





of our youngest members. As one family shared, “The kids had a blast—my kids didn’t want to stop after we were done and have asked numerous times when we can go

caroling again.”

Since 2007, our event has included the cherished tradition of distributing handmade stockings. Linda Springsted introduced this idea, and each year she continues to create beautiful stockings, which are decorated by

the Wednesday and Thursday morning Bible study participants. These stockings, filled with special treats, never fail to bring a smile to our homebound friends.



We have received heartfelt thanks from recipients like Esther and Danny Miller: “Thank you, West Hills family, for sharing Christmas wishes. What a treat to have the carolers come and deliver the creatively designed stockings, filled with useful goodies. Thank you also to those who sent cards and well wishes—you are appreciated and missed. A blessed Christmas is prayed for each of you.” Others have expressed similar gratitude: “Thank you, thank you for



want to thank all the carolers who came and sang for me, they were fantastic. The stocking was filled with many useful and good things.”

How can you participate? To help with planning,

coming to sing for us and to bring so much joy and Christmas blessings... It was such a cold day, and you all brought so much love, warmth, and cheer.” Another message read, “I

you can sign up in the Geneva Lounge on Sunday, November 30 and Sunday, December 7. However, if you are unable to sign up ahead of time but find you can join us last minute, please do so! More details will be shared soon, but for now, be sure to mark your calendars for “Chili and Caroling,” December 14—this is an event you won’t want to miss. Let’s join to encourage those facing challenges and share the Good News of Christmas.

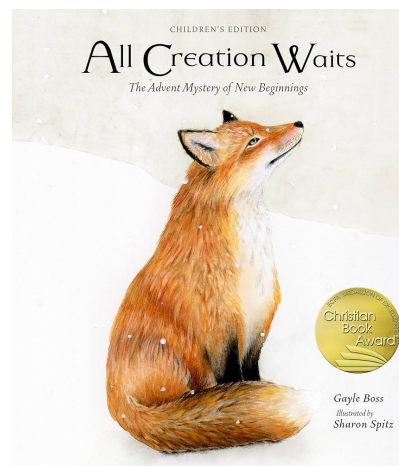
Pastor Deena once said, “We don’t need one more thing on our calendars... but I find that year after year, it is in going to our own Bethlehem, the far place— the nursing homes and homes of those who can’t be with us— that I have the best opportunity to see Christ’s face and be reminded of just why it is He came... We promise you will see Jesus.” This is the reason why we hold this event each year. It is truly a gift from the heart—a gift of Jesus.

*“I will sing to the LORD all my life I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.” Psalm 104:3*

## Book Suggestions

By Debbie Chadwick

The 2025 Christian Book Award in the children’s category is: “All Creation Waits, Children’s Edition” by Gayle Boss with illustrations by Sharon Spitz. According to ChristianBook.com, “...it is a breathtaking picture book that invites



children to journey through Advent alongside 24 extraordinary woodland animals.” The book provides: fascinating animal facts, poetic prose, animal wonderment questions and an Advent calendar featuring an animal each day. The book brings the reader along right up to the birth of Jesus. The book is recommended for ages 3 to 8 years old. Author Gayle Boss enjoys writing about “animals and the human animal bond. Her previous book was *Wild Hope: Stories of Lent for the Vanishing*.” Sharon Spitz is an award winning illustrator and graphic designer.

## Opening Our Hearts to Biblical Hospitality

The November Table Talk is scheduled for a different day and time. Hopefully this change will be better for the weather and driving conditions and will enable some people to come who cannot make a weekday gathering. Please note this change on your calendar now and make plans to attend Table Talk on Saturday, November 22 from 9:00-10:30 am. Come a little early and enjoy a simple continental breakfast too.

This month's talk is entitled "Opening Our Hearts to Biblical Hospitality," and our speaker is Patti Brownlee. Of course, this topic has implications as we prepare to observe the upcoming holidays. More importantly, the talk will deal with how we are called as Christians to extend hospitality year-round and what this genuine hospitality can realistically look like in daily living.

So come! Bring a friend! A place at the table is waiting just for you!

### 2025 - 2026 Table Talks

Each Table Talk is approximately 90 minutes long and usually held in the Fellowship Hall. Please note the November & April Table Talks are on Saturday mornings — a change which we hope will make participating easier for some ladies.

- Saturday, November 22 at 9:00 am
- Tuesday, February 24 at 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 pm
- Saturday, April 11 at 9:00 am

## October 2025 Session Notes

- Session approved the following motions:
- to accept Adam and Megan Weaver, Matt and Jackie Madigan, Shelley Looschen, Adam Hu, Kelila Sands, Matt Petersen, and Eli Brill as members of West Hills Church.
  - to hold a congregation meeting on December 7, 2025, for the election of officers for the 2028 class.
  - René Padilla presented and read Narrative Grace: When Going Leads to Growing: A Story Telling Opportunity for the West Hills Family.

## Narrative Grace: When Going Leads to Growing

### A Storytelling Invitation for the West Hills Family

Faith has always been a story. From the first disciples who walked dusty roads telling others what they had seen and heard, to the quiet testimonies shared among friends today, our stories remind us that God is still at work — shaping, stretching, and surprising us through grace.

At West Hills Church, we believe faith doesn't just grow by listening or studying — it grows when we live it out. When we "go" in love, serve others, and let God transform us through those encounters. That's the heart behind Narrative Grace: a way for our church family to share the small, honest stories of how God shows up in everyday life.

These stories don't need to be perfect or dramatic. In fact, the most meaningful moments often come in the middle of life's uncertainty — when we take a step toward reconciliation, help a neighbor, or choose patience when it would be easier not to.

## Why We're Doing This

Narrative Grace grew out of our church's vision, "Growing by Going: Casting Nets of Hope to a Hurting World." We recognize that spiritual growth doesn't happen in isolation. It happens through encounters — the times we act in love and discover that God was already there, waiting to meet us.

This initiative is about more than collecting stories; it's about deepening awareness. When we pause to reflect on our experiences, we begin to see God's fingerprints on moments we once overlooked. Each story becomes a mirror, helping us notice where grace entered in — through a conversation, a challenge, a failure, or a simple act of kindness.

## What Happens When We Tell Our Stories

Something sacred happens when we put our experiences into words. As we speak them aloud, we begin to see them differently. We notice meaning where we once saw only confusion, and growth where we once saw struggle.

When we tell our stories, we give God's grace a name. We begin to recognize that the same Spirit who worked through us in the past is still working in us today. Reflection turns memory into understanding — and understanding into gratitude.

Telling our stories also strengthens our community. When we listen to one another, we realize that none of us are walking alone. The threads of our individual journeys weave together into a larger tapestry of grace — a shared witness that says, "God is faithful here, too."

## How It Works

We're gathering short, real-life stories from

members of our West Hills family about times when going — stepping out in love — led to growing in faith, patience, humility, or compassion.

Each story begins as a 20–30-minute conversation with a trained listener who helps you reflect on what happened and what God might have been doing in your heart. There's no need to prepare or perform; just come ready to talk. We'll take care of recording and editing, and you'll always get to review and approve the final version before it's shared.

Stories can be recorded in the new church studio or over Zoom, whichever works best for you.

Once completed, they'll be shared:

- During worship, as part of our community reflection.
- In small groups, where stories invite discussion and connection.
- Online or in future newsletters, allowing others to listen, reflect, and be encouraged.

Over time, these stories will become a living archive — a portrait of who we are as a community and how God's grace continues to unfold among us.

## Why It Matters

Grace rarely appears in the tidy parts of life. It lives in the trying, the listening, and the showing up again. Sharing these stories helps us see that God's work is ongoing — not just in the big, triumphant moments, but in the small, faithful ones that shape our hearts little by little.

By participating in Narrative Grace, you help build a culture of testimony and encouragement — one where we recognize that God is writing our stories through each other.



How You Can Take Part

- 1. Pray and Reflect. Think of a time when you reached out in love and noticed God working in you – whether or not it went as planned.
- 2. Schedule a Recording. Contact René Padilla to set up your conversation:
  - rene.l.padilla@gmail.com
  - Call or Text: (402) 321-8214

Recordings can be done in person or online.

- 3. Invite others. If someone’s story has inspired you, encourage them to share it.
- 4. Review and Approve. You’ll always hear your final story before it’s shared.
- 5. Celebrate Together. Listen, reflect, and give thanks as we see how God is working in and through our West Hills family.

In the End

Narrative Grace is more than a project – it’s a spiritual rhythm of reflection and gratitude. It invites us to pause, remember, and tell the truth

about how grace meets us in the everyday.

When we tell our stories, we remember who God has been – and we begin to see who He’s still calling us to become.

Because when we go in love, we grow in grace.

Story Reflection: An Examen of Grace in Your Journey

Take a few quiet moments to rest in God’s presence:

- 1. Recall a moment when you reached out – to help, to listen, or to reconcile.
- 2. Notice how God was present in that moment. What was stirring in your heart?
- 3. Reflect on what you discovered about God’s patience, compassion, or faithfulness.
- 4. Recognize how that experience shaped or stretched your faith.
- 5. Give Thanks for the grace hidden in both the effort and the outcome.

Grace often meets us not in perfection, but in participation – in the simple willingness to go and love.

If a story comes to mind, we’d love to hear it.



Happy Birthday!

*Psalm 118:24 “This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”*



November

- 2 - Judy Schnabel  
Beckett Dunn
- 7 - Bruce Workman  
Dorothea Brady  
Carolyn Reeves
- 8 - Hannah Weller
- 9 - Juliana Scheopner
- 10 - Rich Voshell  
Catie Scheopner

- 11 - Denise Dolezal
- 13 - Ginny Jansen
- 15 - Charissa Wells
- 19 - Jana Prescott  
Anna Crinklaw
- 22 - Kelly Briggs
- 23 - Mary Jirak  
Cheryl Stout
- 24 - Julianne Gill  
Alene Groenjes
- 25 - Jeff Smith

- 26 - Doug Stout  
Donna Peterson  
Kaden Kopperud
- 27 - Tricia Freeman

- 11 - Branden O’Hare
- 15 - Eddie Nelson

December

- 1 - Candy Glasgow
- 5 - Wayne Moore
- 9 - Gary Radil  
Brian Myers  
Joanne Topolski

*The complete list of December birthdays will be in the December newsletter.*

# *Bible Quiz*

*By Gloria Zinn*

1. Why did Paul send Timothy to the church at Ephesus? A) to increase their congregation B) to confront the false teachers C) to register new members D) to pick the new Elders (1 Timothy 1:3-4)

2. Who was Adam and Eve's first son? A) Enoch B) Abel C) Cain D) Seth (Genesis 4:1)

3. Who was the woman who wanted to change her name to Mara? A) Ruth B) Orpah C) Athaliah D) Potiphar (Ruth 1:20-21)

4. During a famine in Egypt who was responsible for selling the grain? A) Moses B) Pharaoh C) Joseph D) Potiphar (Genesis 41:56)

5. When Jesus fed the 5000 with 5 loaves of bread, how many basketfuls were picked up? A) 12 B) 10 C) 5 D) 20 (Mark 8:19)

6. What king built an image of gold that everyone in his kingdom was to worship? A) Manasseh B) Ahab C) Hezekiah D) Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3:1-6)

7. In the Parable of the Wicked Tenants, who is represented as the vineyard? A) Pharisees B) landowner C) Israel D) Gentiles (Mark 12:1-12)

8. Who was the ruling high priest during Jesus' ministry? A) Annas B) Caiaphas C) Simon D) Domentheus (Matthew 26:3)

9. Who had followed John the Baptist before following Jesus? A) Andrew B) Judas C) Peter D) James (John 1:40-42)

10. Which of David's wives was the mother of the disobedient Adonijah? A) Abigail B) Bathsheba C) Michal D) Haggith (2 Samuel 3:2-5)

11. Which prophet is quoted the most in the New Testament? A) Daniel B) Jeremiah C) Isaiah D) Hosea

12. Who helped Paul establish the church in Thessalonica? A) Timothy B) Silas C) Titus D) Barnabas (Acts 17:1-9)

**\*\*Bible Quiz Answers are on page 12/back\*\***



# Memories

Youth Group  
Lunch. Play. Serve. Pray.



October 24-26, 2025 Silent Retreat





Fall Fun Night at Two Rivers Ranch





# November 2025 At A Glance

| <div> <div> Recurring Weekly Events Recurring Monthly Events One Time Events </div> <div>  <div> 3015 S 82nd Ave   (402) 391-8788   <a href="http://whcomaha.org">whcomaha.org</a> </div> </div> </div> | <div> <div> Youth Overnight:<br/>Nov 1, 4 pm -<br/>Nov 2, 9 am </div> </div> |
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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 17                                                                                    | 18                                                                              | 19                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 21                          | 22                                                    |
| <p>Discipleship Classes:<br/>8:45 - 9:45 am</p> <p>Worship: 10 am</p> <p>Youth Group (307):<br/>11:30 am - 1:30 pm</p> <p>YETIs (Off-site):<br/>4 pm</p>                                                                            | <p>Bible Study Fellowship:<br/>6:40 - 8:10 pm</p> <p>December Newsletter Deadline</p> | <p>Men's Bible Study (182): 7 - 8 am</p> <p>Session Meeting (275): 6 - 8 pm</p> | <p>Women's Bible Study (Chapel):<br/>9:30 - 11 am</p> <p>Heartland Hope Volunteer (Off-site):<br/>9:30 - 11:30 am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study (Chapel):<br/>6 - 7:30 pm</p> <p>Men's Bible Study (275): 7 - 8 pm</p> | <p>Sloppy Joe 20 Drop Off (North Entrance):<br/>9 am - 4 pm</p> <p>Thursday Men's &amp; Women's Bible Study (Chapel): 9:30-11 am</p> <p>Younglife Capernaum (326):<br/>6:30 - 8:30 pm</p> <p>Men's Ministry Team Meeting (182):<br/>7 - 8:30pm</p> |                             | <p>Table Talk (Fellowship Hall):<br/>9 - 10:30 am</p> |
| 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 24                                                                                    | 25                                                                              | 26                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 28                          | 29                                                    |
| <p><b>*No Crosswalk Kids &amp; Youth Classes</b></p> <p>Adult Discipleship Class (Chapel):<br/>8:45 - 9:45 am</p> <p>Worship: 10 am</p> <p>YETIs (Off-site):<br/>4 pm</p>                                                           | <p>Bible Study Fellowship:<br/>6:40 - 8:10 pm</p>                                     | <p>Men's Bible Study (182): 7 - 8 am</p>                                        | <p>Women's Bible Study (Chapel):<br/>9:30 - 11:30 am</p> <p><b>*No Evening Bible Studies</b></p> <p>Thanksgiving Eve Worship &amp; Pie Fest:<br/>7 - 9 pm</p>                                                       | <p>Church Office Closed:</p> <p>Happy Thanksgiving!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Church Office Closed</p> |                                                       |
| 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Dec 1                                                                                 | Dec 2                                                                           | Dec 3                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Dec 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Dec 5                       | Dec 6                                                 |
| <p><b>1st Sunday in Advent</b></p> <p>Healing Prayers</p> <p>Discipleship Classes:<br/>8:45 - 9:45 am</p> <p>Worship: 10 am</p> <p>YETIs (Off-site):<br/>4 pm</p> <p>Children &amp; Youth Christmas Ensemble Practice: 11:15 am</p> | <p>Bible Study Fellowship:<br/>6:40 - 8:10 pm</p>                                     | <p>Men's Bible Study (182): 7 - 8 am</p>                                        | <p>Women's Bible Study (Chapel):<br/>9:30 - 11 am</p> <p><b>*No Women's Evening Bible Study</b></p> <p>Men's Bible Study (275): 7 - 8 pm</p>                                                                        | <p>Thursday Men's &amp; Women's Bible Study (Chapel):<br/>9:30 - 11 am</p> <p>Younglife Capernaum (326):<br/>6:30 - 8:30 pm</p>                                                                                                                    |                             |                                                       |



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. B

2. C

3. D

4. C

5. A

6. D

7. C

8. B

9. A

10. D

11. C

12. B