

WEST HILLS WINDOW

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

September 2025



Back to the Work of the Lord

By Paul Springsted; Elder of Finance

Summer is over! Was it too quick? Did you get everything done on your “to do” list AND take a little time for yourself to get refreshed and ready for your upcoming fall schedule? For me, I enjoyed family birthday celebrations, our 58th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY and summer baseball games, both the Kansas City Royals and the Omaha AllPlay Miracle League for children with special needs.

Now I am ready to continue my work as WHC Elder for Finance and as an active member of the congregation. We must prepare for the remainder of our church financial year, which includes ongoing mission projects, the annual stewardship campaign and Capital Campaign planned projects. We have ambitious plans for our church as we reach OUTWARD to the community in which we live and INWARD to

our spiritual growth as we continue along our journey with the living Christ.

Before our annual stewardship campaign begins, I encourage all of us to review our faith pledges for both the WHC Operating Fund and the on-going Capital Campaign. Throughout the last several years, West Hills Church has stressed the need to boost our efforts to address a shrinking congregation along with increasing property costs necessary to properly maintain our building and

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fund our on-going church activities. Our budget and accounting staff will continue to keep the congregation informed on our monthly budget and significant Capital expenditures.

There is good news! West Hills recently added six new members who wish to join the congregation in our faith journey!

More good news! The success of our West Hills Capital Campaign has made significant improvements to our facility, including a newly paved west parking lot, new carpet for the Geneva Lounge and other high traffic areas as well as a new stove and freezer in our Fellowship Hall kitchen. Many other minor but critical repairs and replacements have also been made to our building, including new drinking fountains and various church windows.

The best news of all is that the leadership and congregation of West Hills are committed to the worship and service of our Lord Jesus Christ. With the help of the Holy Spirit we will flourish.

Are You Listening?

By Ginny Jansen; Caregiving Deacon

The story of the Lord speaking to Samuel is recorded in 1 Samuel, chapter 3. The Lord calls "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel checks to see if Eli was calling for him. After the third time, Eli realizes that the Lord is calling, so he instructs Samuel to listen to the Lord and reply "Speak, your servant is listening."

Are you listening? There are times when I wish the Lord would give me an itinerary - or at least a general outline - of what I am supposed to do. It can be difficult to know when I am following God's plan for my life and when I am just doing what I want to do.

God's little whispers can come when we least expect them. I have found that if I take the time to just sit quietly, people's names will pop into my head. Sometimes the names are people that are part of my family or close friends.

Other times the names are people who I'm not particularly close to and maybe I haven't seen or talked to them in quite a while. I try to take a moment to say a quick prayer. When the same name comes to mind several times, I try to take the time to send a note or at least send a quick text message. I will admit that I don't always follow through. It is so easy to get distracted. I tell myself that I will do it later and then I forget - or I think it isn't important. Hope that never happens to you. I have found that when I get that nudging, it usually means that there is a reason that I should reach out. The other person might be lonely or maybe they are sick or maybe they are starting a new job or new school year... the list goes on and on. The reasons vary - but the important thing is that they need to know that they haven't been forgotten and that God loves them.

As I strive to do a better job of listening to those whispers from God, I hope that you will join me in showing God's love to those around us. Are you listening?



Volunteering

By Gloria Zinn

One of my friends who doesn't worship with West Hills was recently venting to me about the lack of activity in her life and the boredom she was experiencing after retiring. When I asked if she was interested in volunteering she told me, "I would never volunteer for anything unless I get paid." Why is this so? Did we forget the basic tenets of our faith?

As Christians, we are asked to serve. The Gospel message on serving emphasizes that serving others is central to the Christian faith, modeled by Jesus Christ who "came not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom" (Matthew 20:28). Serving is an expression of love for God and neighbor, a way to glorify God, and an act of humility that demonstrates spiritual maturity. Christians are called to serve with a selfless spirit, valuing others above themselves and finding fulfillment and blessings in their service. Serving is an expression.

In our church, there are a number of volunteer opportunities that could potentially coordinate well with a busy work/personal schedule. Some opportunities are short term, such as: food, coat, school supplies, etc. drives, taking a yard sign to promote an upcoming event, bringing/serving food for events like Crossroads Connection or New Community, creating crafted items for God's Gift Shop, or volunteering for an all-church event like The Big Drop or Gingerbread Bash.

Other opportunities are long term. If you're interested in volunteering for a period of time or even recurringly, such as teaching a discipleship class, bringing pastries for Sunday worship, becoming a mentor, or working the church front desk during the work week. The best ways to hear about volunteer opportunities is

by subscribing to the weekly West Hills Church email "Thursday Thoughts", watching the slides on the sanctuary and Geneva Lounge screens, visiting a table in the Geneva Lounge after worship or contacting the church at 402-391-8788. And rest assured, any and every volunteer act whether by a few or by all is recognized and appreciated at West Hills. When current WHC volunteers were asked why they volunteer they each gave a similar answer, "God created and equipped us to serve."

We know our lives can be demanding. Many of us are pulled in 50 different directions throughout the week to meet work or family demands; it can be exhausting. And now you want me to serve? We do know when we serve others, we get something a lot greater in return. When we serve, we also get something in return such as: elevated moods, increase in social interactions and social support, better relationships, and decreased loneliness.

When you are volunteering with others you may not know/know well, you're likely to find yourself among new friends who share the same values. As Jesus stated in Matthew 25:34-40, that by serving the hungry, thirsty, strange, naked, sick, and imprisoned, they are serving him. This love Jesus gave to us is to be expressed through selfless service to others. For the upcoming ministry year, think and pray about how you might be able to become a partner in serving in some capacity.

Matthew 25:40

The King will reply, 'Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'

An Invitation to Table Talk

Table Talk, a West Hills Church Women's Ministry Program, will be returning this year for a series of six sessions. It is very obvious from observing women on a Sunday morning in the Geneva Lounge that they are there to worship God and connect with the other members of their faith family, and Table Talk is another intentional opportunity for them to expand on that. It is a time to draw closer to God and one another.

The Table Talk format is simple. Every Table Talk starts off with ladies visiting and enjoying a simple treat before settling in around round tables. After a prayer and brief opening, a speaker provides some "food for thought" on a relevant faith-based topic. Upon the conclusion of this talk, a preassigned "Table Host" leads her group in discussing questions related to the talk. In the past, these discussions have been honest and meaningful, and when it is time to wind up, there is often a sense that these discussions could easily continue. The evening concludes with a song and a prayer.

There is no sign-up. You just show up. If you have regularly been attending Table Talks, we hope you will join in again. If you haven't participated in the past, we hope you will prayerfully consider coming. God always shows up and blesses the evening. A place at the table will be prepared 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.

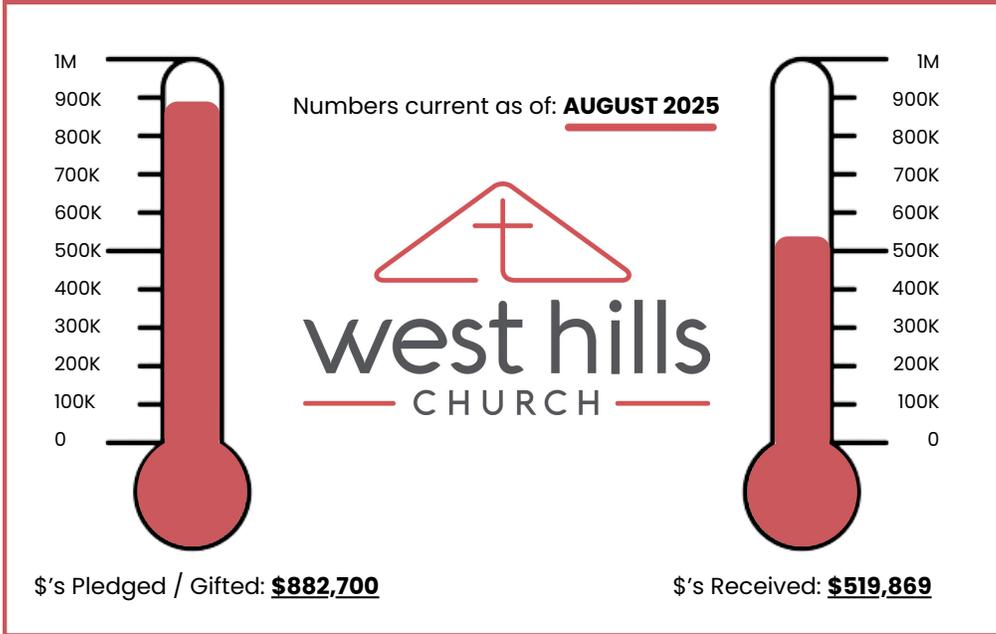
- Tuesday, September 30 at 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, October 28 at 6:30 pm
- Saturday, November 22 at 9:00 am
- Tuesday, February 24 at 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 pm
- Saturday, April 11 at 9:00 am

August 2025 Session Notes

- Discussed chapters 7 and 8 from Richard Foster's, *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*.
- Approved celebrating communion whenever WHC hosts Crossroads Connection in 2025.
- Approved the motion to amend Deacon job descriptions in the Manual of Operations to include set up for communion.
- Requests to update the membership records in Elexio are to be submitted to Randy Green, Director of Mission Support.
- Completed a first round of discussion about updating the regular "InGathering" of our ministry teams.
 - The recommendation on the table is to increase attendance and the overall impact of InGathering by lengthening the meeting time and reducing the frequency (from monthly to quarterly).
 - Elders will discuss these potential changes with their ministry teams and be prepared to vote on the recommendation at the September session meeting.

Capital Campaign

2024-2026 West Hills Church Capital Campaign



3. South Chapel Windows
4. Kitchen Stove
5. Kitchen Freezer
6. Playground Outreach (Phase 1)
7. Capital Maintenance Reserves
8. Exterior Parking Lot Signs Upgrade

We are in the process of: (Approximate - Receiving Bids)

1. Updating North Chapel and West-side Classrooms Windows - Fall 2025
2. Playground Outreach (Phase 2) - Fall 2025 - *73% Grant funded

Have you noticed all of the wonderful Capital Campaign happenings on Campus?

As your Church Campus, I have tried to age gracefully over the past several decades. Even though I try to maintain my original charm, I am ever growing and changing and that keeps me very busy! Like most Church Campuses, I age, I have some issues, and I have some parts that don't work like they used to. Just like a knee or hip replacement, I have needed some help to continue to serve and give love to our amazing Church Community.

In **November 2023**, We as a Church Family discussed and shared ways to help me look like I did back in the day. We created a **Tiered Project List** of things to help me look and act younger. As the **Capital Campaign Kick-Off** began, we had **84 friends pledge gifts up to \$882,700**.

Collectively, thus far, we have received **\$519,869 (58%)** in pledge payments. In addition to these projects and resources needed, your love and gifts have been able to:

We have been able to complete:

1. Resurface the West Parking Lot
2. Carpet Geneva Lounge & Hallway

3. Repair East Parking Lot - Fall 2025
4. Ceiling tiles and lighting for Fellowship Hall - Winter 2025

Future Considerations: (Approximate - Receiving Bids)

1. Sanctuary audio and visual upgrades - (awaiting final bids)
2. Interior Signage Upgrades - (awaiting final bids)
3. Exterior Security Cameras - (awaiting final bids)
4. Wi-Fi Hot Spots - (awaiting final bids)

Please continue to support, help, and pray for the continued growth of our West Hills Church as we are at the **"halfway" point in our Capital Campaign**. If you have any questions about **"where we are at?"** or **"how can I help?"**, please contact our Mission Support Office: (402) 391-8788 or operations@mywhco.org.

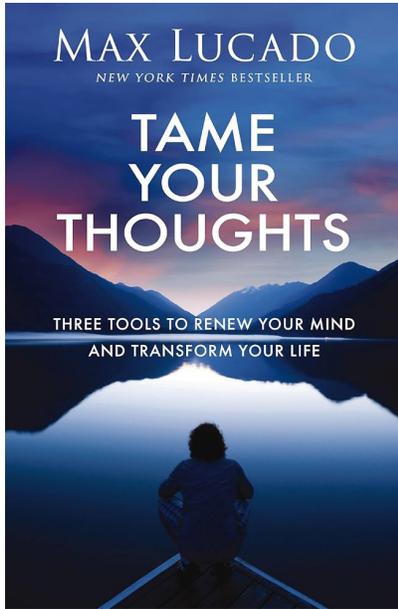
I want to thank the armies of people (past and present) who have given and continue to give their time, talents, and treasure to make me a better place for all to come worship in His name. Sincerely,

Your West Hills Church (as told by Randy Green -
5 Director of Mission Support)

Book Suggestions

By Debbie Chadwick

“Tame Your Thoughts: Three Tools to Renew Your Mind and Transform Your Life” is a book which, according to an Amazon book review, “-explores three key thought management tools and then applies them to the most common thought problems: worry, guilt, anxiety, and other types of mental quicksand that threaten to trap us.” This book speaks to BOTH our positive and negative thoughts and suggests we can manage our thoughts thereby managing our lives.



It is pointed out that the Bible supports this theory when we are told “Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind” (Romans 12:2).

If you are carrying around worry and other negative emotions this book will help readers to:

- Look at their thoughts
- Apply thoughts to Scripture
- Stop harmful thoughts
- Think and behave like Jesus

The book directs us to 2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” Author Max Lucado is a pastor, speaker, and best selling author. He is a pastor at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas.

Memories

Storm Chasers Ballgame



Storm Chasers Ballgame, continued



West Hills Studio Series



Young Adults (YETIs) & Youth at Worlds of Fun

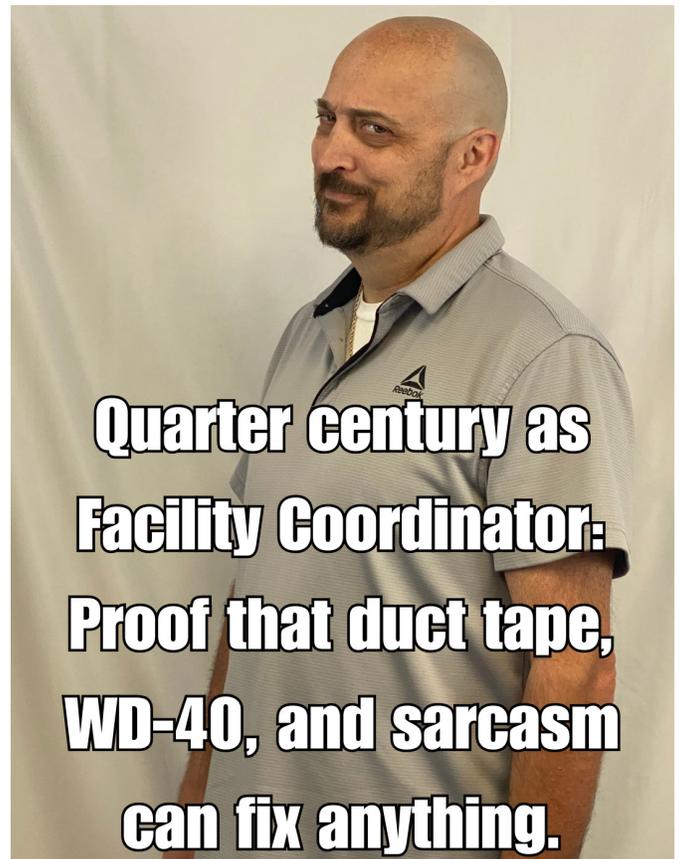


John Good's 25 Year Work Anniversary Celebration



1 Peter 4:10

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”



Bible Quiz

By Gloria Zinn

1. What was the first parable Jesus explained to his disciples? (Mark 4:10-20)
A) Rich Young Man B) Dishonest Judge
C) Shrewd Manager D) The Sower
 2. Who was too short in stature to see Jesus through the crowds? (Luke 19:3)
A) Nicodemus B) Simon C) Zacchaeus
D) Joseph of Arimathea
 3. What is the longest parable in the Bible? (Luke 15:11-32) A) Prodigal Son B) Good Samaritan
C) Lost Sheep D) Unjust Manager
 4. How many wives did King David have? (1 & 2 Samuel) A) 6 B) 8 C) 13 D) 7
 5. Whose heart was turned away from God by the women in his life? (1 Kings 11:4)
A) Rehoboam B) Jacob C) Solomon
D) David
 6. Who did Paul send to Crete to organize and strengthen the church? A) Silas B) Barnabus
C) Timothy D) Titus
 7. How many of the same parables are found in all 4 gospels? A) None B) 4 C) 5 D) 3
 8. Which one of Jesus' parables highlights the danger of wealth and indifference to suffering? (Luke 16:19-31) A) Hidden Treasures
B) Rich Man and Lazarus C) Rich Fool
D) Counting the Cost
 9. Which parable teaches about owing money? (Matthew 18:21-35) A) Talents B) Lost Coin
C) Unforgiving Servant D) 2 Debtors
 10. In the parable about the wicked tenants, who was the landowner? A) Nation of Israel
B) Religious Leaders C) Prophets D) God
 11. Which parable tells us to hate our family?
A) Counting the Cost B) Sheep and Goats
C) Treasure in the Field D) Visitor at Midnight
 12. Why did Jesus use parables when he taught? (Matthew 13:13, Psalm 78:2, Mark 4:11-12, Matthew 13:10-17)
A) so some wouldn't understand the meaning
B) to link a receptive heart
C) to fulfill prophecy
D) to identify one's spiritual condition
- **Bible Quiz Answers are on page 12/back**

Miss any answers about parables? Starting September 11, Thursday Morning Bible Study for men and women will be studying 40 parables until December. Come join us on any Thursday at 9:30 am in the Chapel.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS: 1) D 2) C 3) A 4) B 5) C 6) D 7) A 8) B 9) C 10) D 11) A 12) A,B,C,D



Happy Birthday!

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



September

3 - Ted Tromler
4 - Samuel Nodes
 Jan Drake
5 - Jack Culek
 Luke Weller
6 - Brian Moore
 Karen Garvey
7 - Don Anderson
 Marilyn Moore
8 - Walt Kunold Jr.
 Karen Lofgren -
 Anderson

10 - Rachel Roberts
12 - Myrtle Heise
 Silvia Avelar Estrada
13 - Rick Mason
14 - Sue Shea
15 - Jillian Scheopner
16 - Judy Nelson
17 - Peg Shirley
 Marcia Allen
23 - Gary Anders
 Christy Gibson
24 - Jack Pagel

25 - Ricardo Lopez
 Noah Weaver
26 - William Scheopner
28 - Marion Entz-Harris
30 - Chris Hanna
 Esther Smith

October

1 - Arlo Grafton
 Kenneth Kopperud
 Luke Freeman
2 - Dan Freeman
 Diana Dingman

2 - Briann Bailey
 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

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