

West Prairie Church Council Minutes

The West Prairie Church Council met January 13, 2016. Present were Steve Reimann, Misty Juveland, Pastor Steve, Jan Reimann, Wendell Finer, Denise Holst, President Judy Norstrud, Lanette Branstad and Caroll Carson.

Judy called the meeting to order. Wendell gave devotions.

A change to last month's minutes was a service for Sion at 10:00 a.m. Misty gave the Secretary's Report. Motion to accept by Lanette, seconded by Jan.

Caroll gave the Treasurer's Report. Last month's offering was \$6068.00; expenses were \$6820.51; giving is down. Motion to approve by Judy, seconded by Misty.

Pastor Steve will conduct Ash Wednesday service at Sion, Feb. 10th. Jerry Fjeld will be here representing the Gideon's on Feb 28.

New business: Motion lights to be checked and to add a light to the back of the church by the kitchen area. Jan is going to take care of that. Lanette moved to approve the motion, seconded by Denise.

An additional \$900.00 added to the 2016 budget for the Pastor. A motion to approve that additional was moved by Steve and seconded by Lanette.

A motion to adjourn was moved by Wendell and seconded by Lanette. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Annual meeting was canceled due to weather. Not sure when it will be

rescheduled.

Respectively submitted by Misty Juveland, council secretary

Feb 9, 2016

President Jan Riemann called the meeting to order with devotions. Present were Jan, Lisa, Wendell, Lanette, Pastor Steve, and treasurer Carrol. Bill Schutter and Denise Holst were absent.

Lanette read the secretary's report. Wendell moved and Lisa seconded to accept the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Carroll gave the treasurer's report. There was a \$4336.00 in income collected in January with \$4608.00 in expenses. Lanette moved and Lisa seconded and the motion carried to accept the treasurer's report.

Pastor Steve gave his report. There will be no Bible study during Lent. There is also a question about Easter service time. There may have to be a change. We will be coordinating with Sion. Randy Holstad is trying to get a committee together to plan the trip to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter. A woman has expressed a donation to finance some of the trip. More info will be coming.

Lenten offering was discussed. We need to decide where it will be donated. Last year \$750 went to the India mission project. The Easter money went to the Gideons. The head office of the LCMC sent a letter requesting a donation. There is a shortage of funds because of

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MARCH 2016

Responding to Suffering

One of the hardest questions we might face is, "Why did God let this happen?" "This" may be the death of a loved one, child, spouse, or friend. "This" may be the lingering agony of a cancer patient, a total destruction of property by a killer tornado or the act of a deranged criminal.

Some people blame God for the brokenness of this world when in reality our brokenness is a result of our sinful nature. It is our freedom to choose, it is our freedom to live our lives as we choose that brought the consequences of the brokenness into the world - sickness, despair, trouble, and death. We were separated from God because of sin, turning away from God.

Instead of blaming God for the brokenness of the world, our actions should be to turn to Him in prayer, in repentance, in hope and in faithfulness. Instead of building a wall between us and God in the time of brokenness, we should allow Him to tear down the wall that separates us from Him by depending on Him, not blaming Him.

One reason the Lord allows suffering and pain is so we learn to depend upon Him and not rely on our own strength. When the children of Israel found themselves in difficulties, instead of turning to the Lord, they turned to an alliance with the nations around them, particularly the Egyptians. God warned them that turning to Egypt and other nations for military might could not save them. Only God could do that.

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March Usher...

Jan, Julie Reimann

March Lectionary...

Denise Holst

March Acolyte...

Paris Reimann

March Altar...

Lanette Branstad, Rita Schutter

March Altar Flowers...

Lanette Branstad

March Coffee Servers...

3/6—Lanette Branstad and Jill Holland

3/13—Rita Schutter and Shirley Hanson

3/20—Sharon Holland and Jodi Fjeld

3/27—Easter Breakfast

Sarah Circle...

Thursday, March 3 at 7 p.m. with Irene Eide

Naomi Circle...

Thursday, March 3 at 7 p.m. with Lori Jacobs

LCMC WOW...

Wed., March 9: 9 a.m. quilting; pizza party with hostess Joan West; Easter program by Shirley Schutter

Church Council...

Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m.

Couples Club...

Sunday, March, with Lanette Branstad

Create! Create!

Under the tutelage of Jill Holland, the artist in you will create your Lent-themed masterpiece.

The 2-hour session will be held in Forest City at Creative Spirits on Clark Street beginning at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 20. All supplies provided; fee is \$35.00. Preregister at www.creativespiritsforestcity.com or 712-336-8186.



March 1—Tammy Holland; Andrew Branstad

March 4—KC Williams, Ethan Schutter

March 10—Samantha Schutter

March 15—Merle Durby

March 16—DeAnn Ambrosion

March 19—Calvin Ruby, Lisa Durby

March 22—Wesson and Wilson Berryhill

March 25—Lane Reimann

March 26—Marlys Haugen

March 30—Madison Branstad

2016 is the year of 366 days

Tomorrow is Leap Day, Feb. 29, a day that is added to the calendar every four years.

That's because our defined year of exactly 365 days does not quite line up with the Earth's orbit of the sun in 365.24219 days. This slight mismatch causes a drift of the seasons with the seasonal solstices and equinoxes gradually changing.

To keep the seasons in their traditional months and to keep the solstices and equinoxes near their usual dates, Julius Caesar had a revised Roman calendar introduced in 46 BC. It had 12 calendar months and a year of 365 days. It also included a leap year of 366 days every four years with the extra day added at the end of February.

This "Julian calendar" worked quite well for more than a thousand years. By the 1500s there was a noticeable drift in seasons, and it was apparent further tweaking to the calendar was neces-

sary.

Our present calendar was introduced by pope Gregory XIII in 1582 to correct the minor problems in the Julian calendar.

In the Gregorian calendar only those century years divisible by 400 are leap years. For example, 2000 was a leap year, but 1900 and 2100 are not leap years. The Gregorian calendar is accurate to about one day in 3,000 years. The added rule about centuries (verses just every four ears) was an addition fix to make up for the fact that an extra day every four years is too much of a correction.

It takes the Earth approximately 365.242189 days – or 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds – to circle once around the Sun. This is called a tropical year. Without an extra, we would lose almost six hours every year. After only 100 years, our calendar would be off by approximately 24 days.

Nazareth: Yesterday and Today

The little town of Nazareth was one of the most beautiful places in all of Galilee. Historians estimate the population in the first century at around 400. Today, it is home to more than 60,000 Israeli Arabs, and Upper Nazareth is home to thousands more Jewish residents.

It is a secluded village lying in a basin, surrounded by the Nazareth limestone hills, which were said to “rise round it like the edge of a shell to guard it from intrusion.”

On the hill 500 feet above the town, a most wonderful panorama opens to view of the beauties and historic scenes of the land. At the foot of the hill, the Roman road, also known as “the Way of the Sea,” passed which connected the ancient city of Damascus with the Mediterranean sea ports.

To the north are the mountains of Lebanon with snow-covered Mount Hermon. To the west one could see the blue waters

of the Mediterranean. To the south there was a road that went all the way to Egypt. To the east, across the sea of Galilee, one can see the Mountain of Bashan.

Most of the houses were similar in style with both the rich and poor. A bountiful spring furnished the water supply.

Modern Nazareth is a regional market and trade center; tourism and light manufacturing are also important. The city has been called the “Silicon Valley of the Arab community.”

The chief attraction in Nazareth is the Church of the Annunciation, built in 1966, noted for being built on the traditional site of Mary’s house. The nearby Church of St. Joseph is said to stand on the site of Joseph’s carpenter shop.

The only site in Nazareth that can be definitely identified as dating back to New Testament times is the town well, now call St. Mary’s Well.

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poor attendance to the annual gathering. They have never before asked for funds. We have decided to give 50 percent of the Lenten offering to the LCMC and 25 percent to the SMILE home in Woden and 25 percent to Heifer International. Lanette moved as such and Lisa seconded with the motion carrying.

Jan would like to call a special meeting to add Julie Riemann to the council because she was nominated by Misty Juveland but did not get on the ballot.

We talked about the door to the outside of the kitchen that was damaged in the break in. To replace the door it would cost around \$875 with installation. The door could be fixed by adding a deadbolt lock. Carroll said that adding a deadbolt could result in a deduction in insurance premium. This item was tabled until we get the insurance money.

Waldorf again will be packing meals on Wednesday March 2. Volunteers are needed. Contact Jaci at Immanuel church if you want to volunteer.

February 28 is the day set aside for Gideon Sunday. Jerry Fjeld will be the representative. Prayer chain update is working.

Next meeting March 8. Wendell moved Lanette seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting. We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Lanette Branstad, sec

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God told them, “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.” (Isaiah 30:15) Many times following God can be hard but he always acts out of his love for us, not to harm us.

The next time you go through a difficult time, try to appreciate the experience and grow from it, learning what God wants to teach you. God may be showing you his love by patiently walking with you through adversity. “Behold, God is your strength and salvation.”

See you in church!
Pastor Steve

The Lighter Side...

I saw a homesick snowbird in Tucson the other day. He had a bumper sticker on the back of his car that read: “I Miss Chicago!” Someone broke the window, stole the radio, shot out the tires, and left a note that read, “Hope this helps!”