

## West Prairie Church Council Minutes

June 8, 2016

President Jan Reimann called the meeting to order. Julie Reimann gave devotions. Present were Wendell Finer, Lisa Durby, Julie, Caroll Carson, Lanette Branstad, Lou Nath and Pastor Steve Bang.

Lanette gave the secretary's report. Wendell moved to accept, Lisa seconded, and motion carried.

Caroll gave the treasurer's report. Offering income for last month was \$4343.00 with expenses being \$4704.12. Lanette moved to accept, Julie seconded and motion carried. We also discussed LP and Caroll will check on price.

Pastor reported that the date for the VBS night will be Thursday, August 4 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. with a supper at 5:30 p.m. The ages are kindergarten thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This will be led by the Zion youth worship team. The theme is "Avengers of Good". They will provide promotional material. Contact person from West Prairie will be Lanette Branstad.

Under new business we discussed that some of the cemetery stones need repairing. Jan will talk to Bill Schutter and Terry Durby about the expense being taken out of the cemetery fund.

We need to have Young's Plumbing and Heating to

come and inspect the air conditioner and do the maintenance. Lanette moved to do that, Wendell seconded and motion carried.

Jan feels that if we got gutters on the church proper it would eliminate the leaks via the vents. The increased water flow from the roof comes into the vents and leaks into the addition. He will check on pricing.

Other topics we discussed were that we need new toner for the copy machine that is covered in the maintenance agreement. The bushes need trimming again. We need to remind Bill and Terry about getting someone to mow the church and cemetery yard because Garrett is leaving the first part of July. The ladies are planning on repairing the church cushions.

The next meeting will be July 13<sup>th</sup>. Wendell moved to adjourn, Julie seconded and motion carried.

We closed with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted'  
Lanette Branstad, sec.

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The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home.

— Confucius

## West Prairie Lutheran Church, LCMC

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Steven Bang, pastor — 641-590-7894

JULY 2016

I recently received a small book entitled, "I Am a Church Member" by Thom S. Rainier. It reveals that following Jesus involves far more than believing — it involves belonging. Only as we belong to Christ's body can we become what he intends us to be. In fact, it is impossible to grow to spiritual maturity by yourself. You must be connected to the other parts of the body, Christ's church.

Nothing compares to a group of believers who love one another, pray for each other and serve God together to reach their neighbors. Few congregations meet this description, however. We have failed to reach about Biblical church membership and we have reaped what we've sown — membership without meaning and members without commitment. Church membership carries both privilege and responsibility.

In the introduction to his book, Rainer suggests that congregations across America are weak because many church members have lost the Biblical understanding of what it means to be part of the body of Christ. We join churches expecting others to serve us, to feed us, and to care for us. We don't like hypocrites in the church, but we fail to see our own hypocrisies.

God did not give us local churches to become country clubs, where membership means we have privileges and perks. He placed us in churches to serve, to care for others, to pray for leaders, to learn, to teach, to give, and in some cases, to die for the sake of the gospel.

The PASTOR'S PEN by Rev. Steve Bang

Continued on page 3

**July Usher...**

John Haugen

**July Lectionary...**

Julie Reimann

**July Acolyte...**

Paris Reimann

**July Altar...**

Lou Nath, Jill Holland

**July Altar Flowers...**

Louise Nath

**July Coffee Servers...**

7/3—Lanette Branstad  
and Phyllis Disque

7/10—Shirley Hanson  
and Irene Eide

7/17—Shirley Schutter  
and Colette Reimann

7/24—Candy Johnson  
and Phyllis Disque

7/31—Louise Nath and  
Shirley Hanson

**Sarah Circle...**

No meeting this month

**Naomi Circle...**

No meeting this month

**LCMC WOW...**

No meeting this month

**Church Council...**

Wed., July 13, 7 p.m.

**Bible Study Club...**

July 17, 7 p.m. with  
Phyllis Disque



7/3—Lori Jacobs

7/14—Gabrielle Branstad,  
Halle Johnson

7/16—Nancy Buffington

7/18—Helen Finer

7/21—Ravyn Berryhill

7/22—Shirley Schutter

7/23—David Branstad

7/24—Ty Durby, Sharon  
Holland

7/26—Robb Jacobs

7/28—Garrett Fjeld

7/31—Easton Jacobs



**Happy Anniversary to...**

**July 7th**

Denny and Judy Norstrud

**July 31**

Oly and Veronica Maas

Thank you for the quilt – it fits me very well!! Also thank you for all the support in my music. It is all so appreciated. Thank you for always guiding me in the way of faith and always making me feel at home! Much love to West Prairie Lutheran Church and God Bless! —Blake Jacobs



**WOW members host salad luncheon, special program**

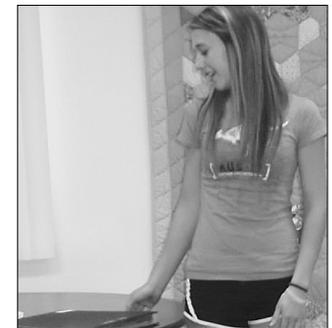
Quilters and guests halted their work at noon to enjoy a variety of salads and desserts on Wednesday, June 8th.

The program began with a welcome by Shirley Schutter, devotions by Louise Nath and singing the hymn, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”

A video about Lutheran World Relief’s distribution of quilts and layettes to African countries was very interesting. It also showed women learning to sew garments on treadle machines. (Shirley Schutter requested the video from Lutheran Resource Center; see related article on LRC.)

Faith Finer honored us by singing “Just As I Am Without One Plea.”

Rachel Holst gave us a tour of New Zealand and Australia via her photo album and stories from her FFA trip last year.



**The taxpayer — that’s someone who works for the federal government but doesn’t have to take the civil service examination.**  
— Ronald Reagan

## Exclusive Luther exhibit coming to the U.S.

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts will be the site of the Luther exhibit in which over 100 objects have never before left the Luther House in Wittenberg, Germany.

2017 marks 500 years since the Protestant Reformation. The exhibit, "Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation," runs from Oct. 30, 2016 through Jan. 15, 2017.

### PASTOR'S PEN *from page 1*

Many churches are weak because we have members who have turned the meaning of membership upside down. It's time to get it right. It's time to become a church member as God intended. It's time to give instead of being entitled.

One way to help serve — a one-night VBS geared toward 1st-5th graders is being planned at West Prairie for Thursday night, Aug. 4. You may say, "We don't have many kids that age." And you are right, but we can invite the kids in the community to come and join

Presenting sponsor Thrivent Financial is honored to be part of sharing this special exhibition.

For questions regarding tickets and hours, contact Mia: 612-870-3000; or tickets@artsmia.org. Reservations can be made at <http://new.artsmia.org/luther-tour>. Thrivent members may use the code THRIVENTMIA for reduced price tickets.

us, right? A VBS team from Zion Lutheran in Clear Lake has offered their services to us to present a 2-hour VBS program with the theme: "The Avengers of Good." Our responsibility is to invite the kids and be a host/hostess! The program will be from 6-8 p.m. and we will have a supper beforehand. Details are being worked out and if you want to be a part of this exciting adventure, contact Lanette Branstad. It will be a blessing.

See you in church!  
Pastor Steve

## Utilize the Clear Lake Resource Center

The Lutheran Resource Center (LRC), located on Hwy. 18 in Clear Lake, operates as a lending library for a myriad of ideas, support and help in developing programs for Sunday School, Bible studies and other programs. It is designed to give churches access to a wide range of resources and tools that some congregations are not able to secure for their ministry. Curriculum samples from various publishers are also available to peruse before purchase.

LRC is a non-profit outreach ministry of Zion Lutheran Church in Clear Lake. The Center opened in 1972 after Rev. W. Salvesson's idea of collecting resources for congregations to borrow rather than purchase the materials flourished.

Member congregations also have access to [the-workofthepeople.com](http://the-workofthepeople.com) with Bible and other studies that can be downloaded.

Financial support for LRC comes from congregational memberships, chari-

table contributions and grants. Congregational membership fees are based on average membership attendance. Memberships are not charged usage fees, but users are responsible for paying postage from and to LRC.

The Resource director since 1997 is Karen Harthan and is the go-to person who will assist you with your ideas or can provide connections to other resources or people.

West Prairie has a membership to the LRC making access to books, devotionals, videos as easy as going to your local library. A catalog list of written materials and videos are available on their website ([www.lutheranresourcecenter.org](http://www.lutheranresourcecenter.org)). You can call 641-357-4451 or email to [lrc@cltel.tel](mailto:lrc@cltel.tel) to request all materials. Items can either be picked up at the store or sent to you by the most economical shipping method.