

## West Prairie Church Council Minutes

July 13, 2016 Council Meetings

Jan Reimann called the meeting to order. Present were Jan Reimann, Julie Reimann, Lisa Durby, Wendell Finer, Lanette Branstad, Caroll Carson, Lou Nath and Pastor Steve. Missing were Bill Schutter and Denise Holst. Jan gave devotions.

The secretary's report was read, Wendell moved to approve, Lisa seconded, and motion carried. Caroll gave the treasurer's report. The income from June was \$4040.00 with expenses being \$4601.69. Caroll purchased 2200 gallons of LP at \$.89 a gallon. Lanette moved and Julie seconded, motion carried.

The council recognizes all the work Wendell and Faith Finer did at cleaning up the parking lot, removing all the branches that fell. Thank you Wendell and Faith.

Pastor Steve will be leaving on July 20<sup>th</sup> for vacation. He will be gone Sunday, July 24. Bonnie Iverson will be conducting the service.

In November, the Iowa LCMC Conference will be held in Clear Lake. There is

a church council workshop in Swea City on August 13 from 10 am to 3pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

There will be a retirement party for Pastor Dan Christensen on July 31 from 1-4 p.m. at St. Paul's Maple Leaf Lutheran Church, Elma.

The Roger Peterson family donated a new stove. The first estimate on the gutters is \$911.00. Jan will be getting a second estimate. The \$2000 to repair the gravestones needs to come out of the cemetery fund. Lisa moved and Lanette seconded to repair the cemetery stones. Motion carried. Bill Schutter will be covering the mowing for Garrett.

The next meeting will be Aug. 10. Wendell moved and Lisa seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lanette Branstad, sec.

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If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God you'll be at rest.

—Corrie Ten Boom

## West Prairie Lutheran Church, LCMC

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The mission of West Prairie Lutheran Church shall be to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all through worship, education, outreach and fellowship.

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### “Whose Fault Is It?”

A minister and an atheist barber were walking through the city slums. The barber said to the preacher, “This is why I cannot believe in a God of love. If God was as kind as you say, He would not permit all this poverty, disease and squalor. He would not allow those bums to be addicted to drugs and other character-destroying habits. No, I cannot believe in a God who permits these things.”

The minister was silent until they met a man who was especially unkempt and filthy. His hair was hanging down his neck and he had a half-inch stubble on his face. The minister said, “You can't be a very good barber or you wouldn't permit a man like that to continue living in this neighborhood without a haircut or “

Indignantly the barber answered, “Why blame me for that man's condition? I can't help it that he is like that. He has never given me a chance to help him. If he would only come to my shop, I could fix him up and make him look like a gentleman!”

Giving the barber a penetrating look, the minister said, “Then don't blame God for allowing these people to continue in their evil ways, when He is constantly inviting them to come and be saved. The reason these people are slaves to sins and evil habits is that they refuse the One who died to save and deliver them.”

The barber saw the point.... Do you?

The PASTOR'S PEN by Rev. Steve Bang

**August Usher...**

Steve Reimann

**August Lectionary...**

Faith Finer

**August Acolyte...**

Faith Finer

**August Altar...**

Phyllis Disque, Candy Johnson

**August Altar Flowers...**

Irene Eide

**August Coffee Servers...**

8/7—Lisa Durby and LeAnn Peterson

8/14—Jill Holland and Rita Schutter

8/21—Judy Norstrud and Irene Eide

8/28—Shirley Hanson and Janet Haugen

**Sarah Circle...**

7 p.m. with Louise Nath at the church

**Naomi Circle...**

7 p.m. with Rita Schutter

**LCMC WOW...**

11:30 a.m. Retreat at Crystal Lake Park, picnic lunch, program by Shirley Schutter

**Church Council...**

Wed., Aug. 10, 7 p.m.

**Bible Study Club...**

Aug. 21, TBD



- 8/2—Taila Jacobs
- 8/7—Rozella Hagen
- 8/10—LeAnn Peterson
- 8/13—Bjorn Juveland
- 8/20—Blake Jacobs
- 8/21—Ceara Fjeld
- 8/22—Cody Reimann
- 8/25—Caitlin Fjeld
- 8/28—Whitli Bromeland



**Happy Anniversary to...**

**August 4**

Brian & Crystal Nelson

**August 9**

Bob & Louise Nath

**August 22**

Andrew & Keneisa Branstad

Everything we do should be a result of our gratitude for what God has done for us.

**Lutheran World Relief: Making a Difference**

As the name implies LWR operates all over the world. Their mission is affirming God’s love for all people, working with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering.

During 2015, LWR reached more than 4 million people in 36 countries through 126 projects with 104 partners.

Sources of funding comes from donated material resources, 28.3%; individuals, congregations and others, 35.2%; grants-U.S. government, 10.3%; grants-foundation, corporate and other, 7.9%; bequests, 6%; ELCA, 5%; action by churches together, 4.3%; LCMS, 1.3%; combined federal campaign, 1.3%; food resource bank, .6%.

Expenses allocated: Program services, 85.7%; management, 6.6%; fundraising, 7.7%.

A few of the programs initiated in 2015 include: Kenya and Uganda have experienced success

between coffee farmers and their cooperatives by special training and utilizing smart phones connected to agricultural databases regarding crop diseases, weather forecasts, herbicide training.

Columbian farmers have received training to increase coffee production by adopting sustainable farming practices where past conflict over land and water was prevalent.

A cacao seedling nursery in the Philippines was set up to provide start-up materials, facilities where farmers are able to learn techniques from start to finish in the cacao operation.

Families in the Sahel region of West Africa are helped through a livestock-sharing process and receiving drought-tolerant seeds and training on soil and water conservation.

In addition to many other programs, LWR gives excellent support during disasters around the world.

## Luke's account of the mob at Ephesus in Acts 19

Acts 19 starts with Paul leaving Apollos in charge of the church in Corinth while he continues his missionary journey. It ends with Paul's encounter with an angry mob.

Upon his arrival in Ephesus, Paul meets some believers whose instruction was incomplete. He teaches them about the Holy Spirit and baptizes them in the name of the Lord Jesus. But then things get interesting.

Paul's message offends both Jewish and Gentile establishments in Ephesus. The response of some people in the synagogue was the usual: stubbornness and disbelief.

But for the Gentiles, the problem was literally closer to home: their pocketbooks. What Acts calls "a serious disturbance" broke out when a silver-smith named Demetrius told his fellow silver-smiths that Paul's ministry was bad for business.

To understand why, for centuries the city had

been a center for cult practices drawing worshipers to the magnificent temple of Artemis (425 feet long by 200 feet wide, four times the size of the Parthenon) which was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Those who came purchased replica shrines, mostly of silver. As Paul's converts abandoned their former worship, the silver-smithing business fell off threatening their livelihood in addition to Ephesus' stature within the Roman Empire.

So the people of Ephesus rioted, yelling "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians." While two of Paul's companions were dragged into the theatre and threatened with bodily harm, Paul was kept from joining them by friends. The mob was finally quieted by the town clerk who warned the crowd that they were in danger of being charged with rioting. The merchants dispersed and the matter ended.

## Hospice of NI offers grief & loss programs

Six-week programs are being offered this fall by Hospice of North Iowa for adults grieving a death.

Mason City—Sept. 20-Oct. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hospice of North Iowa conference room, 232 2nd St. SE. Also a morning session, Oct. 7-Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. until noon.

Charles City—Sept. 27-Nov. 1 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Floyd County Public Health building, 1003 Gilbert St.

This program is free of charge. Registration is required as space is limited. Call 1-800-297-4719 or 641-428-6208 to register.

## This 'n That...

1. How many Ts in a week?
2. How many seconds in a year?
3. What is God's name?

Answers: 1. Today and Tomorrow. 2. 12-Jan. 2nd, Feb. 2nd, etc. 3. Andy—Andy walks with me Andy talks with me,...

## PASTOR'S PEN from page 1

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (I Corinthians 1:18) The message of Christ's death for sins sounds foolish to those who don't believe. Death seems to be the end of the road. But Jesus did not stay dead. His resurrection showed His power even over death. And He will save us from eternal death and give us everlasting life if we come to Him. It sounds so simple but it is the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. The 'foolish' people who simply accept Christ's offer are actually the wisest of all, because they alone will live eternally with God. Why not give Him a chance?

See you in church!  
Pastor Steve Bang

Confirmation classes and midweek Bible Study Classes will resume in September. Watch for announcement in September Sunday bulletins.