

## West Prairie Church Council Minutes

November 9, 2016

President Jan Reimann called the meeting to order with Julie giving devotions. Present were Jan, Julie Reimann, Wendell Finer, Lisa Durby, Carol Carson, and Pastor Steve. Absent were Denise Holst, Bill Schutter, and Lanette Branstad.

Julie gave the secretary's report. There were no additions or corrections. Wendell moved, Lisa seconded to accept the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Carol gave treasurer's report. The amount designated for church planting is still not donated. We need to find one. Lisa moved, Julie seconded to accept report. Motion carried.

Pastor Steve reminded us of the LCMC meeting at the Dock in Clear Lake. Thanksgiving Eve service will be Nov. 23 at Sion at 7:00pm.

For new business they talked about Young's check up on the furnace. We also discussed getting the youth involved more in the youth group. Jan, Bill, and Terry will be taking care of the snow removal. The LP is all

set up for winter. The Sunday school program will be Dec 18 at 4:30 p.m..

Old business was about Advent Adventure. We talked about shoe boxes and the supplies needed. Talked about the cemetery stone repair.

The next meeting is December 14. Wendell moved, Lisa seconded to adjourn; motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Julie Reimann for Lanette Branstad, council secretary

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### In the Spirit of Giving

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) thanks West Prairie for the donation of \$140.00.

A thank you to West Prairie from Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for a donation of \$130.00.

**A notice of Tree of area Life lighting services is posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board.**

## West Prairie Lutheran Church, LCMC

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Steven Bang, pastor — 641-590-7894

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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The PASTOR'S PEN by Rev. Steve Bang

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.” (II Cor. 9:15) Christmas is a time for gifts. Young and old enjoy the fulfillment and satisfaction found in gift giving and gift receiving. The tradition of Christmas gifts is rooted in the greatest Gift ever... the gift of a Savior... the Christmas Gift.

Jesus was the Perfect Gift – perfect, sinless, holy. He came to a sinful, unholy, imperfect world in order that He might bring the gift of salvation to all. “For by grace are you saved through faith and this is a gift from God, not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9)

Jesus is a gift for all of us. He gave himself to us because he loves us. Ever given a gift to Jesus? What was it? After all, Christmas is a celebration of His birthday. Shouldn't we be giving Him something? What do you think Mary, the mother of Jesus, would think about the way we see gift giving today? Listen to this story called “Mary's Dream”:

“I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts.

It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and

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**December Usher...**

Bryon Holst

**December Lectionary...**

Paris Reimann

**December Acolyte...**

Easton Jacobs

**December Altar...**Sarah Kirschbaum and  
Jodi Fjeld**Dec. Altar Flowers...**

Lisa Durby

**Dec. Coffee Servers...**12/4—Shirley Hanson and  
Janell Carson12/11—Lanette Branstad  
and Roni Maas12/18—Janet Haugen and  
Julie Reimann**Sarah Circle...**Wed., Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. at  
Leland Cafe**Naomi Circle...**

Wed., Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.

**LCMC WOW...**Wed., Dec. 14 at 1 p.m.  
Christmas program. Please  
bring cookies for shut-ins**Church Council...**

Wed., Dec. 14th, 7 p.m.

**Bible Study Club...**Wed., Dec. 7th, 5:30  
p.m. at Shooterz, Forest  
City

12/4—Julia Holland

12/7—Roni Maas

12/8—Helen Stohr

12/9—Lisa Durby

12/14—Jayme Charlson

12/15—Byron Holst

12/29—Haley Schutter



Happy Anniversary . . .

**December 19**

Merle &amp; Blanche Durby

Tradition does not mean  
that the living are dead,  
it means that the dead  
are living.

—Harold MacMillan

Whereunto He called you  
by our gospel, to the ob-  
taining of the glory of our  
Lord Jesus Christ. There-  
fore, brethren, stand fast,  
and hold the traditions  
which ye have been  
taught, whether by word,  
or our epistle.

II Thessalonians 2:14-15

**Christmas traditions . . .**

. . . bring out memories  
of family, past and present  
members and friends —  
those things that start con-  
versations of “do you re-  
member when” that are  
repeated year after year.  
There’s the aroma of fresh-  
ly baked specialties that  
also signal traditions, as  
well as bringing out hand-  
ed-down decorations.

What traditions do you  
observe each year? Do you  
start new traditions as  
your family grows?

My favorite tradition as  
a child was having our  
Sunday School program on  
Christmas Eve. At the  
close of service, we each  
received a little brown bag  
that held peanuts, some  
hard candies and especial-  
ly the Delicious apple.  
Throughout the years, we  
have incorporated tradi-  
tions from our respective  
relatives and making new  
traditions.

According to tradition, it  
is said that Mary was told  
on March 25th (the An-  
nunciation) she would con-  
ceive and deliver a special  
child. On December 25th

— the greatest Christmas  
gift for all mankind was  
delivered. This day is ob-  
served worldwide!

The lore of the candy  
cane became a Christmas  
tradition — the J for Je-  
sus, the white stripe for  
His purity, and the red  
stripe for the blood He  
shed when He died on the  
cross.

The tradition of the hol-  
ly brings to mind the  
prickly leaves that repre-  
sent the crown of thorns  
and the berries symbolize  
the drops of blood caused  
by the thorns.

Ivy is also a reminder,  
just as the plant needs  
something to cling to as it  
grows, so we need to cling  
to God for support.

The evergreen trees  
that we decorate with  
lights represent everlast-  
ing light and life with  
God.

The tradition of placing  
a star atop the Christmas  
tree: Did it originate be-  
cause of its reference to  
“the star in the east” as  
told by the Magi?

This we know: Jesus is  
the reason for the season.

stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right in their house. They'd decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on the top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look. Oh, it was beautiful.

Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know Him. I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration He would have been intruding.

Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so full of cheer, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus – not to be wanted at His own birthday celebration. I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real.....

See you in church!  
Pastor Steve Bang

### Christmas Trivia —

1. Christmas Island, in the Indian Ocean, is a territory of which country? Australia
2. In the song, "Twelve Days of Christmas," how many swans were a-swimming? Seven
3. What former Egyptian president was born on Christmas day in 1918? Anwar Sadat
4. The Latin word meaning "coming" gave us what term which refers to the coming Christmas period? Advent
5. The first singing radio commercial, which aired in the U.S. on Christmas Eve 1926, was for which brand: Rolex, BMW, Wheaties, or Durex? Wheaties
6. Which southern central U.S. state was the last to recognize Christmas as an official holiday? Oklahoma



Irene Eide was presented with a lap quilt commemorating her 90th birthday on Sept. 12th.



Bible Study Club met in the Bob and Lou Nath home in October and enjoyed pizza and ice cream.



Coffee and fellowship is a staple at West Prairie.