

February 8, 2017 Council Minutes

President Jan Reimann called the meeting to order. Present were Jan, Julie, Phyllis, Lanette, Lisa, Wendell and Pastor Steve. Absent were Bill Schutter and Carol Carson. Julie gave devotions. The agenda was approved and Lanette gave the secretaries report. Wendell moved, Phyllis seconded, and the motion carried to accept it. The treasurer's report said we had an income of \$7256.17 and expenses of \$4511.99. Lanette moved and Lisa seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor reported that Lent starts on March 1, with the Ash Wednesday service at West Prairie at 7 p.m. There will be no supper before that service but will start the next week before services alternating between West Prairie and Sion. Suppers at West Prairie will be March 15 and 29. Lou requested some more input for the newsletter. Maybe something from the circles, ladies aid, and Sunday school.

Waldorf University is hosting the Stop Hunger packaging program again on Wednesday, February 22. If you would like to volunteer, call Jaci at 641-585-3152 or email her at jaci@immanuelfamily.com. The shifts are one hour starting at 1:30 with the last one starting at 5:30pm.

We discussed the Lenten offering and where we would donate it. It was tabled until later. We have received thank yous from Power of Gospel Church, United Way, and

LWR. We received a \$10 donation from Brenda Singelstad, Lake Mills, for the Sunday school.

Ceara Fjeld will be going on a veterinary mission trip from Iowa State to Nicaragua. She is asking for support, either financial or prayer. Phyllis moved, Julie seconded that West Prairie give her \$400 for her trip. Motion carried.

We have received two bids for mowing- J&B is \$150 a time with trimming every other time, and Ackermann's being \$130 a time with trimming the same. We decided to table this for further discussion.

We discussed the pew cushions. They are getting really thin and worn out. Zion just got new cushions. It was suggested that we talk to them so we can find out where they got theirs.

We are going to update the scholarship rules to be more specific. One of the rules already states that the applicant be an active church member. Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 14. Since Lenten services are on Wednesday we will change to Tuesday. Wendell moved, Phyllis seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lanette Branstad, sec.

Know your hymns?

The politician's hymn?

"Standing on the Promises"

The IRS agent's hymn?

"I Surrender All"

MARCH 2017

West Prairie Lutheran Church

Steve Bang, pastor
40041 150th Ave., PO Box 9, Leland, IA 50453
641-567-3733 . . . westprairie.lc@gmail.com
www.westprairiechurch.com



Greetings!

Lent marks the 40 day period before Easter that begins each year on Ash Wednesday (March 1 this year). Although it is traditionally a time devoted to self-examination, self-denial, and repentance, Lent sinks its deepest roots into the joyful expectation of new life through God's forgiveness and steadfast love. Lent issues a call to God's people to return to Him with their whole heart. It is a time to take seriously the areas of our lives in which we fall short, feel defeated, or have grown cold. And we do so not to beat ourselves up but to prepare for God's gifts.

Every gift from God reveals His love but no gift reveals His love more than the gifts of the cross. These gifts came not wrapped in paper but in passion. They were not placed around a tree but around a cross. They were not covered with ribbons but sprinkled with the blood that Jesus shed on our behalf.

The hill of Calvary is rich with the gifts of God's grace. These were gifts He didn't have to give. These include not only the gift of the cross but also the gift of thorns that pierced His brow, the nails that tore His flesh, the seamless robe that He removed for us, the empty tomb where He forever defeated sin and death. The cross is rich with God's gifts of grace and as we unwrap them, we will hear Him whisper, "I did it just for you."

Continued on page 3

Page 2—Monthly Schedule
Pages 6 & 7—Food Bank & WOW

Pages 4 & 5—Monthly Calendar
Page 8—Council Minutes

MARCH

USHER: Jan Reimann,
Paris Reimann

LECTIONARY:
Lanette Branstad

ACOLYTE:
Caitlin Fjeld

ALTAR:
Lanette Branstad, Rita
Schutter

ALTAR FLOWERS:
Sharon Holland

NAOMI CIRCLE:
3/2, 7 p.m. with Lanette
Branstad

SARAH CIRCLE:
3/2, 7 p.m. with Irene Eide

WOW:
3/8, 9 a.m. quilting; noon
pizza party with host
Joan West

CHURCH COUNCIL:
3/14, 7 p.m.

BIBLE STUDY CLUB:
3/19, time TBD, hosts Jan
and Julie Reimann

FELLOWSHIP SERVERS:
3/5—Lanette Branstad &
Irene Eide
3/12—Lanette Branstad
& Helen Finer
3/19—Sharon Holland &
Phyllis Disque
3/26—Jodi Fjeld & Jill
Holland

**March 1**

Tammy Holland
Andrew Branstad

March 4

Ethan Schutter
KC Williams

March 10

Samantha Schutter

March 15

Merle Durby

March 16

DeAnn Ambroson

March 19

Lisa Durby

March 22

Wesson Berryhill
Wilson Berryhill

March 25

Lane Reimann

March 26

Marlys Haugen

March 30

Madison Branstad

Happy Anniversary

March 25

Wendell & Helen Finer

Our Saviors provides service to those in need

As part of the Our Saviors Food Pantry “team,” I’d like to provide some information about operating procedures and what we’re all about.

Our Saviors pantry is open every Tuesday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. or when there is a food emergency. Clients can receive food twice a month and we focus mainly on Winnebago County residents, but are open to anyone in need. Recipients are allowed to make food choices hopefully eliminating waste.

A committee of six volunteers handle details of running the pantry. Some do the ordering, others pick up food orders, stock shelves, keep an inventory of food items in stock, purchase food, and unload deliveries. Another 20 volunteers work on a rotating schedule on Tuesdays during the pantry’s open hours.

The Pantry operates with donations from individuals and churches and with grants. It’s been a blessing to partner with the food bank of Iowa in Des Moines. Food orders are either picked up in Des Moines or delivered to Clear Lake for pickup.

Thanksgiving dinners were provided to 53 families and 46 families received Christmas dinners in 2016.

Submitted by Phyllis Disque.

Ed. Note — for anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Sue Hoeft at 641-585-5367 or email to: race21@wctatel.net.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

When in sorrow Call John 14
When men fail you Call Psalm 27
If you want to be fruitful Call John 15
When you have sinned..... Call Psalm 51
When you worry Call Matthew 6:19-34
When you are in danger Call Psalm 91
When your faith needs stirring Call Hebrews 11
When you are lonely and fearful Call Psalm 23
When you grow bitter and critical Call I Cor. 13
When you want peace and rest ... Call Matt. 11:25-30
For Paul’s secret to happiness..... Call Col. 3:21-27

Quilting is not just about sewing, it binds friendships, too

The West Prairie WOW group met on February 8th at the church at 9 a.m. There were seven quilters in attendance this month; Irene Eide, Sharon Holland, Janell Carson, Candy Johnson, Joan West, Shirley Hanson and Barb Stenberg. Irene and Sharon got the coffee pot on and we soon enjoyed a cup of hot coffee and goodies plus treats provided by Candy Johnson in honor of her birthday!

Discussion began as to the progress on the four quilts being made to present to our high school graduates this year. Janell showed everyone the completed quilt top for Rachel Holst. The group discussed details concerning the embroidered label that Sharon will be doing. Joan began reading through the instructions for the quilt kit for Caitlin Fjeld and has volunteered to begin cutting and sewing it together. Janell has the top for Halle Jo Johnson's quilt almost completed. Patterns and fabrics were discussed for Julia Holland's

quilt. We have an idea and Sharon volunteered to give it a try or use a pattern of her choosing. Great progress is being made toward having all four quilts completed by May!

The group made their way to the basement to begin work on mission quilts. Irene, Candy and Shirley were busy tying a quilt in one room. Across the hall you could hear the hum of sewing machines operated by Barb and Sharon. Janell and Joan worked on sorting and organizing all of the fabric donations. Our new shelving is working out well.

Just before noon we stopped our work and went to Mitchell's in Leland for lunch. We look forward to our next meeting on March 8th at 9 a.m. when we will continue our quilt work and enjoy a pizza party! You don't need to be able to sew to be part of this group. If you can use scissors or just tie a knot, you will fit right in. We invite you to join us!

Submitted by Janell Carson

PASTOR'S LETTER *Continued from page 1*

We will again alternate worship services between West Prairie and Sion Lutheran. We begin on March 1, Ash Wednesday, with our worship service at 7 p.m. There is no evening meal on Ash Wednesday but we will have supper at 6 p.m. and worship at 7 p.m. throughout the Lenten season.

The theme is one that Max Lucado wrote about in his book, "He Chose the Nails." Our theme is "He Chose the Nails – What God Did to Win Your Heart." The weekly themes and location are:

March 1 (Ash Wednesday) "He Chose to Be One of Us" – West Prairie

March 8 "He Chose to Forgive Us" - Sion

March 15 "He Chose to Invite Us Into His Presence" – West Prairie

March 22 "He Chose to Love Us Forever" - Sion

March 29 "He Chose to Give Us Victory" - West Prairie

April 5 "He Chose to Give Us Confidence" - Sion

See you in church!

Pastor Steve

St. Patrick, is he fact or myth?

"Wearing of the Green" is traditional for the Irish, Irish descendants and wanna-be Irish on March 17th known as St. Patrick's Day. So, who is this "St. Patrick?"

According to historians, as a young boy Patrick was kidnapped from his home in Great Britain and taken to Ireland as a slave to tend the animals. During those six years before he escaped, he became closer to God which paved the way for his conversion to Christianity.

It is believed that St. Patrick lived in the second half of the fifth century and history records his death on March 17. St. Paddy is thought to be the founder of Christianity in Ireland and that he used the shamrock (3-leafed clover) to teach the Irish people about the Holy Trinity.