

COUNCIL MINUTES CONT.

was discussed about taking it down and trying to sell it. We decided to leave it in the balcony and not tune it. Joan West moved with a second by Chuck Holland to contact the LCMC to see if any new congregation could use the piano. If so, we will figure out how to get it down. Motion carried.

There is a CD maturing. We will acting on it at a later date. Roger Peterson thanked West Prairie for being so welcoming to Leanne and him.

Jan Riemann offered to stay on the council and Phyllis Disque agreed to serve. Irene Eide moved, Chuck Holland seconded that the nominations cease. Motion carried. They were elected unanimously. Chuck Holland moved, Jill Holland seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lanette Branstad, sec.

The new council met after the annual meeting with all but Lisa Durby present. Jan Riemann will remain the president, Wendell Finer is vice president, and Lanette will remain the secretary. We decided to get some estimates for lawn mowing. Rita Schutter and Julie Riemann will remain on the auditing committee. We will not be associated with Riverside Bible camp because Kenny Olson works with Okoboji. We need to talk to the Pastor about installation.

Bill moved, Phyllis seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lanette Branstad, sec

FEB. TRIVIA *from page 6*

dias. He issued an edict prohibiting these marriages based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better as they would not be concerned about their wives or children if they died in battle.

Hailed as the largest train station in the world, Grand

Central Terminal opened in New York City in 1913.

And a sad note in American history in 2003 when the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated during reentry into the Earth's atmosphere in Texas, killing all seven astronauts who were aboard.

In 2004 Facebook was launched!

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.

FEBUARY 2017

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God.” (I Corinthians 1:18)

The apostle Paul tells us there are people out there in the world who don't like Christianity because it doesn't offer the kind of answers that they want to hear. The cross is a stumbling block to many and foolishness to others. The cross declares that God bought us with a price. You are not your own. If you accept the answer of the cross you cede authority in your life over to Christ.

Many people don't want to give control of their lives over to God. In Jesus' day, we see that as long as Jesus did what they wanted him to do, they would follow him. If not, they would walk away. It is similar to the way some treat Jesus today. If God doesn't answer their prayer in the way and in the time they wanted, or something happens in their lives that hurt them terribly and they feel betrayed by God, they would simply walk away from God.

As long as God did what they wanted, they were willing to follow Him. But if He didn't and they had difficulties, hardships, or sufferings in their life, they would walk away from God. Perhaps we all would desire to follow a God who would protect us from the difficulties of life. But the cross defies that notion. The cross instead speaks of death and suffering and pain and loss. It speaks of a world that is often unfair and unjust. The cross declares that life won't always turn out the way you want it to. It declares that life will ulti-

The PASTOR'S PEN by Rev. Steve Bang

Febuary Usher...

Terry Durby and Ty Durby

Febuary Lectionary...

Paris Reimann

Febuary Acolyte...

Paris Reimann

Febuary Altar

Misty Juveland and Lisa Durby

Febuary Flowers...

Judy Norstrud

Coffee Servers...

2/5 — Lisa Durby and Jodi Fjeld

2/12 — Denise Holst and Judy Norstrud

2/19— Irene Eide and Colette Reimann

2/26 — Jodi Fjeld and Jill Holland

Sarah Circle...

No meeting

Naomi Circle...

Wed., Feb. 1, 7 p.m., with Sharon Holland

LCMC WOW...

Wednesday, February, 15, 9 a.m. quilting; noon lunch at Leland Cafe

Church Council...

Wed., Feb. 8, 7 p.m.

Bible Study Club...

No meeting

**February 1**

Anthony Haugen

February 5

Annika Juveland

February 7

Angela Haugen

February 8

Logan West

February 10

Judy Norstrud

February 20

Bill Schutter

February 21

Austin Kirschbaum

February 24

Alan Goranson

February 26

Kevin Williams

February 28

Keniesa Branstad

Winter is a pause in music, but during the pause the musicians are privately tuning their strings, to prepare for the coming outburst!

— Alexander Smith

Affliction is often that thing which prepares an ordinary person for some sort of an extraordinary destiny.

— C.S. Lewis

West Prairie Church Council Minutes

Annual Meeting
January 15, 2017

The annual meeting of West Prairie Church was held January 15, 2017 after the church service. President Jan Reimann called the meeting to order and opened with devotions. Judy Norstrud moved and Phyllis Disque seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Because of the time, Pastor gave his report next. Sion and West Prairie had joint Lenten services together as well as Thanksgiving which was held at Sion in 2016. Zion of Clear Lake did a one-night VBS at West Prairie with about 30 kids attending. There were 4 kids from Sion confirmed and 2 first-year students at West Prairie. Pastor did baccalaureate at Lake Mills and led services at nursing homes. In February, Pastor Kirk Wilke, from Zion, passed away. He will be greatly missed.

Lanette gave the secretary's report. Denise Holst moved to accept the secretary's report and Roger Peterson second with the motion carrying.

The ladies gave their reports. Jan gave an update on the youth group. We need to encourage our youth to attend. Kenny Olson does Bible

studies and talks with the students as how to apply them to their own lives.

Bill Schutter gave the cemetery report. Chuck Holland moved, Wendell Finer seconded to accept cemetery's report and motion carried. The auditors reported that all the books checked out. Rita and Julie thanked everyone for including the bank statements. Merle Durby moved, Phyllis seconded to accept the auditor's report. Motion carried.

Treasurer Caroll Carson gave the treasurer's report. The income for the year was \$67,978.00 with expenses being \$68,932.23. Jill Holland moved, Jody Fjeld seconded, motion carried to accept the treasurer's report. In the budget, we raised the pastor's gift by 3%. Merle Durby moved, Larry West seconded to accept the treasurer's report with it carrying.

In new business it was discussed to have the lawn mowing come out of the cemetery fund. Denise moved, Joan West seconded to have the mowing be paid by the cemetery fund. There was one dissent but motion carried.

The piano in the balcony never gets used. It costs over a hundred dollars to tune it. It

Continued on next page

February: A Month That Defies Definition

This month of February is unique in many ways: the only month that can add or subtract a day to a year; the only month that starts and ends on the same week day; the only month that can change a normal year to a leap year; and associated as the month of love, friendship, sharing and giving.

February is also the only month that, once in every six years, will have four full 7-day weeks. It is also the only month of the year that can pass without a single full moon. This occurred in 1999 and will occur again in 2018.

During February, the U.S. observes the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (12th) and George Washington (22nd) which are now observed the third Monday of the month.

Among “special” days are Feb. 5th — Super Bowl Sunday; Feb. 6th — Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (yay!); and the 9th as National Pizza Day!

On Feb. 1 — evaporated milk was invented by Gail Borden in 1851; The Beatles #1 hit in 1964 was “I Want to Hold Your Hand.”

North Iowans remember “the day music died” on Feb. 3, 1959 when Buddy Holly, Big Bopper, Ritchie Valens and their pilot died in a plane crash.

And if you think the winter of 2016-17 has been harsh, a 1978 blizzard hit the New England region with snowfall of four inches an hour and sustained winds of 65 mph. The coldest weather ever recorded in North America was at Snag, Yukon with -81 degrees F. in 1947. Another weather statistic: More than 60 tornadoes struck the southern U.S. states in February 1884 — considered one of the largest tornado outbreaks in U.S. history.

The first portion of the Revised Standard Version (RSV) of the Bible was published in 1946. It presented the first serious challenge to the popularity of the King James version.

To be noted is Feb. 9, 1778, when the U.S. flag was formally recognized by a foreign naval vessel for the first time. The USS Ranger, commanded by John Paul Jones, was rendered a 9-gun salute by the French Admiral de la Motte.

On Feb. 14, 278, a priest in Rome by the name of Valentine was beheaded for performing marriage ceremonies for young couples. The church was being persecuted at that time by Emperor Clau-

Bible Quiz — sharpen your pencils

1. Abraham’s two sons, born of a bondwoman and freewoman, are symbolic of: (a) one covenant; (b) two covenants; (c) promises; (d) two promises? See Gal. 4:24
2. We are to stand fast in the ___ by which Christ has made us free: (a) faith; (b) freedom; (c) spirit; (d) liberty. See Gal. 5:1
3. If we live in the Spirit, let us also ___ in the Spirit: (a) run; (b) pray; (c) love; (d) walk. See Gal. 5:25
4. When we restore a brother or sister spiritually, what kind of spirit are we to have? (a) meekness; (b) peaceful spirit; (c) humbleness; (d) faithfulness. See Gal. 6:1
5. Who was married to Jacob? (a) Ruth; (b) Rachel; (c) Tamar; (d) Jezebel. See Gen. 29:28
6. How old was Noah when he entered the ark? (a) 148; (b) 200; (c) 450; (d) 600. See Gen. 7:11
7. After expels Adam and Eve from Eden, what object does He place to the east of the garden? (a) an eagle’s feather; (b) a fountain; (c) the hide of a cow; (d) a flaming sword. See Gen. 3:24

PASTOR’S PEN *from page 1*

mately turn out the way God wants it to.

Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33b) Are you troubled? Are you feeling overwhelmed by life? Take heart! The cross is a symbol of the very worst that life can throw at us and Jesus overcame it all. Can you trust him with your life? I am willing to trust a God who gives me all I need in this life and in the life to come. Are you?

See you in church! (Our evening Lenten services begin on Ash Wednesday, March 1. Make plans to attend. More details are coming.)

Pastor Steve

Continued on page 8