

## April 12, 2017 Council Minutes

President Jan Riemann called the meeting to order. Present were: Jan, Julie Reimann, Lisa Durby, Lanette Branstad, Phyllis Disque, Caroll Carson, and Pastor Steve. Julie gave devotions of "The price of love" about Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Lanette gave the secretary's report. Julie moved and Lisa seconded to approve as read. Motion carried. In the treasurer's report, we had \$5080 of income. We have received an anonymous donation of \$1000 to benevolences. The expenses were a lot this month—\$8832.59, because Caroll paid the first half of the benevolences budgeted. Lanette moved, Phyllis seconded to accept the report and motion carried.

Pastor Steve reminded us that Maundy Thursday would be at West Prairie with communion. Easter service would be at West Prairie at 7 a.m. also with communion, with the breakfast following. Confirmation will be the first Sunday in May, May 7 at 11 a.m.. Pastor Steve presented Annika Juveland and Austin Kirschbaum for confirmation. Lanette moved, Lisa seconded to approve the two for con-

firmation. Motion carried.

"Answers In Genesis" had an outreach booth at the Iowa State Fair last year. It was very impactful. They sent us a letter asking for donations as they are gearing up for the 2017 fair. Lanette moved, Julie seconded, motion carried to send a \$200 donation.

A new scholarship application form will be available.

We are looking into putting a hand dryer in the women's bathroom instead of the paper towels. Hopefully, that will keep the stool from plugging up.

The bank is working on changing the cemetery fund to add Bill's name.

West Prairie is on the list for the AC checkup.

Terry Durby and Bill Schutter have worked on some of the cemetery stones.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.. Phyllis moved, Julie seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lanette Branstad

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*Government spending gives you some idea why laws are called bills.*

MAY 2017

## West Prairie Lutheran Church

Steve Bang, pastor  
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A man told of a friend of his who was walking out of church ahead of him after worship. The preacher was standing at the door shaking hands and he grabbed the friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The preacher looked him intently in the eye and said to him, "You need to join the Lord's Army, son!" The friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Preacher." The preacher questioned, "How come I don't see you except for Christmas and Easter?" He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

Jesus died to establish his church. And Paul, and Barnabas, and Silas, Timothy, Titus and a whole host of heroes of the New Testament spent a great portion of their lives establishing local congregations, building them up and strengthening them, selecting Elders to oversee the people in those churches. Paul, for example, tells of how much he had to endure to get this job done. He was imprisoned, stoned, beaten, and run out of town. He was in constant danger. He was often cold and hungry and thirsty and lonely. And he endured all that so he could establish local churches for Jesus.

Yet, there are some who call themselves Christians who say or at least act like it doesn't matter that Christ's sacrifice to establish His church makes a difference to them...That the sacrifices that Paul and others made to establish local congregation is irrelevant. Because...

May

**USHER:** Roger Peterson,  
Mark Peterson

**LECTIONARY:**  
Janet Haugen

**ACOLYTE:**  
Jack Holland

**ALTAR:**  
Larry and Joan West

**ALTAR FLOWERS:**  
Phyllis Disque

**NAOMI CIRCLE:**  
5/3, 7 p.m. w/Rita Schutter

**SARAH CIRCLE:**  
5/3, 7 p.m. potluck @ church

**WOW:**  
5/10, 9 a.m. quilting; noon  
lunch w/Irene Eide and  
Candy Johnson

**CHURCH COUNCIL:**  
5/10, 7 p.m.

**BIBLE STUDY CLUB:**  
Not scheduled

**FELLOWSHIP SERVERS:**  
5/7—Judy Norstrud and  
Irene Eide  
5/14—Lisa Durby and  
Helen Finer  
5/21—Joan West and  
Whitli Bromeland  
5/28—Candy Johnson  
and Louise Nath



**May 7**

Jan Reimann

**May 8**

Denise Holst

**May 14**

Roger Peterson

**May 16**

Dale Zingg

**May 23**

Kylie Holst

**May 24**

Steve Bang

Julie Reimann

Joran Colby

Betty Williams

**May 25**

Brett West

Happy   
Anniversary

**May 31**

Jeff & Tammy Holland

Life isn't about waiting for  
the storm to pass . . .  
It's about learning to  
dance in the rain.

Life is short. Eternity isn't.

**My View On What Birthdays Mean . . .**

*Submitted by Phyllis Disque*

We all have a birth date and observe it in different ways. God put us on earth on a certain day and time, giving the gift of life to our parents. From there it's a life journey of growing from a child, to adolescence and adulthood.

You can think of age as just a number; some more important than others. As a child, it's ice cream and cake that make the little ones smile. Then it was our first day of school — how excited we were! We couldn't wait to be a teenager, to grow up faster than our parents wanted. When we reached 18, we thought it meant we were pretty much grown up and were adults. All the privileges we had, maybe our own car. By 21 we had the world by the tail. Life was good.

At some time college, a job, or the military claimed our time. Before you knew it, age 65 was on your driver's license and many people retired. However, many people are working past

retirement and living longer.

Then travel agencies catch your eye so maybe a trip would be fun. Or you volunteer for something in your area.

We can't avoid the Golden Years. Many have opinions regarding those years. We are only here for a fleeting moment. We know someday we will walk at the right hand of God; here on earth we need to hold him in our hearts.

Have a Happy Birthday no matter your age!

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While at the baseball game, Jim was upset by the location of his seat. Searching the crowd, he sees an empty seat close to first base. Making his way over, he asked the gentleman if he could use the empty seat.

"Sure," he said, "This used to be my wife's seat but she passed away."

"I'm sorry for your loss, but I'm curious, why didn't you give the extra ticket to a friend or relative?"

The widower replied,

## Honoring Mother's on May 14th

Motherhood has changed a lot over the years . . . or has it?

Let's look at the world's first mother — **Eve**. She was blessed by God, lived in the Garden of Eden, had everything one could want — then listened to a snake! She (and Adam) lost their “paradise.” With no mother to give her guidance with rearing the children, it was probably a lot of trial and error in figuring out what to do when they were teething or were sick.

And **Sarah**—it must have been a shock having a baby in her 90s! This is the mom who gives hope to everyone who waited a little late to get started. God promised Abraham he would be the father of many nations and they were eventually blessed with the birth of Isaac.

The mother of Aaron, Moses and Miriam — **Jochebed** — in spite of civil disobedience, she allowed Moses to be born.

No coincidence that he was “sent down the river” and picked out of the water by the Pharaoh's sister. Life's twists and turns are surprising when orchestrated by God!

Another outstanding mother was **Hannah**, who prayed for a son and then dedicated him to the Lord before he was born. She was rewarded for her faithfulness in the person of Samuel.

The very young “girl” **Mary** who was chosen to be the mother of God's son — how much pressure was that? Faith in God made it possible for Joseph to accept and cherish Mary and the child, Jesus. What was it like to “mother” Him?— really, knowing He was God's son? Incredible.

One of life's greatest blessings is to have a godly mother. And, one of the greatest gifts you can give your children is to be a godly mother.

Happy Mothers Day on May 14th!

## PASTOR'S LETTER *Continued from page 1*

they're good enough. No, they're not! If Christ established His church, and great men and women struggled to build His church, there's a reason it exists. And that reason is to help us to be bold witnesses for Christ, to help us to be unswerving in our hope, and to help us have other Christians around us who can spur us on to love and good works. You cannot be an anonymous Christian, you cannot be in the secret service of the Lord because it just won't fly with Jesus. Jesus loved the Church. Jesus gave himself up for her. No, the Church isn't perfect but our leader is perfect. You won't find another one like Him! We are talking about the beginnings of the Church in the book of Acts in our Bible study. Join us.

This is the month of confirmations and graduations. We have two young people being confirmed on May 7: Annika Juveland and Austin Kirschbaum. We also have four young people graduating this year, one from Lake Mills High – Rachel Holst, and three from Forest City – Caitlin Fjeld, Julia Holland and Halle Jo Johnson. Congratulations and God's speed to all of these young people! Good job, well done! See you all in church!

Pastor Steve



A celebratory service on Easter Sunday reminded us once again of Christ's triumph over death. It also signaled spring with 11 beautiful white lilies displayed in front of the altar. Lanette sang “In the End of the Sabbath” to begin the service.

We were delighted to have Jonie Bang among the 63 congregants. The Sunday school families served a breakfast of biscuits, gravy and fruit.