

July 12, 2017 Council Minutes

President Jan Reimann called the meeting to order and opened with devotions. Jesus is an author. He wrote on our hearts because He Himself is the Word. Present were Jan, Julie Reimann, Wendell Finer, Lisa Durby, Phyllis Disque, Lanette Branstad, Caroll Carson, and Pastor Steve. Missing were Bill Schutter and Lou Nath.

Lanette gave the secretary's report. There were no corrections so Phyllis moved, Wendell seconded to accept the report. Motion carried. Caroll gave the treasurer's report. The income for the month was \$4525 with expenses being \$8341.34 (half of the benevolences paid). Lanette moved, Lisa seconded to accept the treasurer's report; motion carried.

Pastor Steve reminded us about the VBS on August 4. There will be a special 500th anniversary of the Reformation at Zion on October 14 from 2-4 p.m. The theme so far is "Looking back and then looking ahead." More info to follow.

Other business discussed was: "Smile" is still active. That

stands for Single Moms in Loving Environment. It is a non-profit to help single moms. We sent part of our Lenten service offering to them last year. It is in Crystal Lake.

Jan was reminded about the new windows for the basement. There is some cement work and trim work around the windows. He said he would try to get them in before winter. We rescheduled the clean-up day for the fall. Jan will make a list of things to be done.

A suggestion was made to change the women's restroom to a family room and the men's to a unisex room. We did decide to put a baby changing table in the women's room. Julie moved and Wendell seconded to put a baby changing table in the women's restroom and use money from the building fund to pay for it. Motion carried. Carrol volunteered to scope one out and use the money from the building fund. Thank you Carrol. It is installed and it looks nice.

Next meeting is August 9. Wendell moved, Lisa seconded

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AUGUST 2017

West Prairie Lutheran Church

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As you read God's Word, are you looking for His promises? The Bible is full of them. Some of God's promises can be misread and misinterpreted. One of those promises comes from Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

This article will not allow me to be extensive about this verse but I would like to point out a couple of things that may surprise us. This promise is not a promise for everyone. It's a promise for a specific kind of person, who meets two criteria: 1) "those who love God" 2) "those who have been called according to His purpose".

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." Those who love God are obedient followers. Those who are called are followers of Jesus. This promise then, leaves out a lot of people. For example, it leaves out the person who has no interest in spiritual things but just found out she had a miscarriage. God loves her, yes. God has a better future for her if and when she turns to Jesus. But Romans 8:28 has nothing to say to her present heartache. This is just one example.

It may surprise us to see that if you are living in deliberate disobedience to God in some area of your life, God doesn't promise He will step in and fix the mess that your disobedience has caused. How do we know

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AUGUST

USHERS: Larry & Joan
West

LECTIONARY:
Colette Reimann

ACOLYTE:
Paris Reimann

ALTAR:
Sharon Holland, Jodi Fjeld

ALTAR FLOWERS:
Irene Eide

NAOMI CIRCLE:
8/2, 7 p.m. with Lori Jacobs

SARAH CIRCLE:
8/2, 6 p.m. potluck, Bible
study & meeting at the
church.

WOW:
8/9, 11:30 Retreat at Crys-
tal Lake Park, picnic
lunch; program by Pastor
Bang

CHURCH COUNCIL:
8/9, 7 p.m.

BIBLE STUDY CLUB:
8/20 time and location
TBD; Lanette Branstad,
hostess

FELLOWSHIP SERVERS:
8/6—Candy Johnson and
Phyllis Disque
8/13—Colette Reimann,
Janet and John Haugen
8/20—Sharon Holland
and LeAnn Peterson
8/27—Jodi Fjeld and
Lisa Durby

AUGUST



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 — Taila Jacobs
10 — LeAnn Peterson
13 — Bjorn Juveland
20 — Blake Jacobs
21 — Ceara Fjeld
22 — Cody Reimann
25 — Caitlin Fjeld
24 — Sharon Holland
28 — Whitli Bromelan



AUGUST 4th
Brian & Crystal Nelson

AUGUST 9th
Bob and Lou Nath

AUGUST 22nd
Andrew & Keniesa
Branstad

AUGUST 2017**Wednesday, August 2**

Naomi Circle — 7 p.m.

with Lori Jacobs

Sarah Circle — 6 p.m.

Potluck & Lesson at the Church

Friday, August 4

Vacation Bible School

5:30 p.m. meal

6 to 8 p.m. “Treasure Seekers”

Sunday, August 6

10:15—10:45 a.m. Fellowship

11 a.m. Worship Service with

Holy Communion

Wednesday, August 9

11:30 a.m. WOW Retreat at
Crystal Lake Park, potluck picnic,
program by Pastor Bang

7 p.m. Church Council

Sunday, August 13

10:15—10:45 a.m. Fellowship

11 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, August 20

10:15—10:45 a.m. Fellowship

11 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, August 27

10:15—10:45 a.m. Fellowship

11 a.m. Worship Service with

Holy Communion





EDUCATION

In 1983, a report titled A Nation at Risk was released and soon afterwards, an increase in academic standards including an increase in the number of school days per year, longer school days and higher testing standards were called for by Congress.

“No Child Left Behind,” a national law passed by Congress in 2002, marked a new direction. In exchange for more federal aid, schools were required to measure progress by standardized state exams in math and language skills. However, each state determined their proficiency bar. To date, no state has 100 percent of students reach their proficiency goal.

By 2012, 45 states had dropped the requirement to teach cursive writing from the curriculum. Few schools start

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the school day by singing the national anthem, have mandatory recess for children, nor a mandatory arts class. Continuing reports of a student’s progress can now be found online, supplementing the former method of periodic report cards.

The top 10 states providing the best high school education are: Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Virginia, Maryland, Nebraska, Iowa, Utah and Washington.

A lot of changes in educa-

CHURCH COUNCIL

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and motion carried. We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lanette Branstad



Denny and Judy Norstrud observed their 60th wedding anniversary with friends and family on July 9th.

PASTOR’S LETTER

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that? Just ask David and Bathsheba. Sure, David was forgiven. Sure, he was used by God to write scripture after his sin. God brought some good out of his union to Bathsheba with a son, Solomon. But their firstborn died in infancy. David spent the rest of his life at war. His family was a dysfunctional mess. None of these things qualify as God’s wonderful plan for David’s life. It began with disobedience.

Sometimes the trials and hardships we face are the results of sinful choices. Sometimes bad things happen because we live in a fallen, sinful world. God hasn’t promised that everything will always work out in this life. But He has promised that, no matter what happens, He will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised us in Romans 8 that no matter what life or the enemy (Satan) might throw our way, He is good and His eternal purposes never will be thwarted. Count on it!

See you in church!
Pastor Steve

August—school begins for students, educators

The month of August signals the beginning of the school year for students, teachers, assistants, cooks, bus drivers, and most importantly – parents and caregivers. In recent years, we have seen an uptick in charter schools, private and parochial schools. Why is this, and what are students and parents seeking that is elusive in our public school systems?

How did public schools emerge in the United States? Records show that the first public school opened in 1635 in Massachusetts, the Boston Latin School, and it remains the oldest public school in the nation. As the name suggests, schools were publicly supplied but not free. Students were charged tuition and were typically white males. The common attitude about educating males was the dominance of men in world affairs, business practices and family affairs, therefore, needing to both read and write.

Few opportunities for girls were available. Traditional methods of family, church and community were taught in the schools with reading and math left to the family members. It was believed that girls needed only to read, especially religious materials. Even the edu-

cation of elite women was limited to the classical arts and sciences.

In the 18th century, Common Schools provided education for students of all ages in one room with one teacher. These schools were not free either as parents paid tuition, provided housing or other commodities to the teacher in exchange for students to attend school.

From the late 1800s through the 1930s, the number of schools and students rose dramatically, especially in large cities. With a high proportion of population in rural schools, one-room school-houses sprung up in the 1800s similar to the Common Schools in the 1700s. Older pupils assisted teachers by teaching the younger students what they had learned. By 1870, the U.S. population had one of the highest literacy rates in the world at that time.

Public schools were not common in the South during this period. Literacy rates in the South were lower than in the North due to a large part of the population being under- or non-educated working-class families. Children of affluent parents were tutored privately or sent to boarding schools. Prior to 1945, few

rural students of either race continued education beyond the 8th grade.

Compulsory tax-subsidized education for children ages 8-14 was instituted by the early 1900s and by 1918, every state required students to complete elementary school. The most common textbook was the Speller by Noah Webster which was the blueprint for successive textbooks.

Teachers evolved from single young women without any particular skill to the introduction of training for a two-year period at Normal Schools.

Large city schools adopted the practice of placing students in grades according to age. Early public school superintendents emphasized discipline and rote learning, and school principals made sure the mandate was imposed on teachers. Disruptive students were expelled.

By 1940, 50 percent of young adults had earned a high

school diploma. Higher education was largely oriented toward training men as ministers before 1800. Doctors and lawyers were trained in local apprentice systems.

In 1944 during World War II, Congress passed the GI Bill, an aid limited to veterans who had served in wartime for college education. It paid tuition and living expenses. At that time, most campuses became largely male since only two percent of wartime veterans were women

Beginning in the 1980s, government, educators, and major employers issued a series of reports identifying key skills and strategies to steer students and workers towards an increasingly digital workplace and society. Many of these skills are also associated with analytic reasoning, complex problem solving, and teamwork, compared to traditional knowledge-based academic skills.

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Learning Knows No Bounds