

Samaritan. Present were Jan Reimann, Julie Reimann, Lisa Durby, Wendell Finer, Lanette Branstad, Phyllis Disque, Caroll Carson, and Pastor Steve.

Caroll gave the treasurer's report. Last month we had an income of \$6170.81 with \$4210.89 in expenses. Lanette moved and Wendell seconded to send the Thanksgiving service collection to the Food Bank in Forest City. Motion carried. Phyllis moved and Julie seconded to send the \$250.00 that we received from the Zion Reformation Service to the Leland Food Pantry. Motion carried. It was also decided to send a \$100 to the LCMC disaster assistance for the fire fund.

We voted to continue to use in-house auditors for the treasurer's books. Caroll does a great job. The secretary's report was then read. Wendell moved, Phyllis se-

conded and motion carried to accept the report.

We discussed what to do with the Christmas Eve offering. Wendell moved, Phyllis seconded and motion carried to give the Christmas Eve money to Misty for her many expenses incurred with her cancer treatments.

Christmas Eve service will be held at West Prairie at 7 p.m. with no Christmas Day service at Sion. There will be communion at the evening service.

Bible study will be starting in January. We will be having late service starting in January. January 7 will be the budget meeting which is before the annual meeting. Lisa moved and Wendell seconded to adjourn the meeting.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Lanette Branstad, secretary

Cell Phone vs Bible *Submitted by Irene Eide*

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated the Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

JANUARY 2018

West Prairie Lutheran Church

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God's blessings to you as you begin a new year! Is there reason for hope and peace in 2018? If we know the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, there is eternal hope and peace even in the midst of difficulty and struggles. Though the circumstances of life come crashing down upon us at times, Jesus is with us to carry us through it all. PTL!

How shall we be living our lives in 2018? I was asking God that question as a new year begins. This is what came to mind as I sought His answer: Have this year filled with M.E.A.T. Now, I'm not talking about physical meat (though I enjoy that too) but spiritual meat. There are 4 letters in meat and each letter represents a word... M.E.A.T.

M = Meekness: Be humble and gentle toward one another and willingly be submissive and obedient to Christ. This means we must surrender our all to Jesus. Jesus is our ultimate example of meekness. He was willing to submit his entire life to his Father. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." (Matt. 5:5)

E = Edify: Edify one another and build each other up. The church, the body of Christ, is meant to do that.... Not to be critical, full of gossip and backbiting but loving toward one another. "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up." (I Thess. 5:11)

A = Adore: "O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord." Let us be people of worship and praise to God for He is worthy of our praise. Worship should always come before work.

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JANUARY

USHERS: Wendell & Helen Finer

LECTIONARY: Lisa Durby

ACOLYTE: Faith Finer

ALTAR: Whitli Bromeland, Colette Reimann

ALTAR FLOWERS: Shirley Hanson

NAOMI CIRCLE:

No Meeting

SARAH CIRCLE:

No Meeting

WOW:

No Meeting

CHURCH COUNCIL:

01/10—7 p.m.

BIBLE STUDY CLUB:

No Meeting

FELLOWSHIP SERVERS:

Jan. 7—Judy Norstrud, Shirley Hanson

Jan. 14—Tammy Holland, Sharon Holland

Jan. 21—Candy Johnson, Irene Eide

Jan. 28—Whitli Bromeland, Jan & Julie Reimann

ANNUAL MEETING:

01/21—1 p.m. (following potluck dinner)

**BIRTHDAYS**

10 — Kaitlin Kirschbaum

12 — Ezkiel Braden

13 — Wendell Finer

15 — Misty Juveland

17 — Emerson Schutter

23 — Caroll Carson

28 — Joan West

Just Think,

You're here not by chance, but by God's choosing. His hand formed you and made you the person you are. He compares you to no one else — you are one of a kind. You lack nothing that His grace can't give you. He has allowed you to be here at this time in history to fulfill His special purpose for this generation.

*Written by Roy Lessin,
Dayspring co-founder*

Council Minutes

November 15, 2017

The council of West Prairie was called to order by President Jan Reimann. Present were Jan, Julie Reimann, Lisa Durby, Phyllis Disque, Wendell Finer, Lanette Branstad, Caroll Carson and Pastor Steve. Absent were Bill Schutter and Lou Nath.

Jan gave devotions of Jesus talking about a house being built on a rock is strong. Our heavenly home is lasting and we are waiting for it. Our eternal home is available to us through faith in Jesus Christ. He says, "I will come back and take you with Me so where I am, you will be there with Me."

Lanette gave the secretary's report. Wendell moved, Phyllis seconded to approve report; motion carried.

Caroll gave the treasurer's report. We had an income of \$5820.66 with expenses of \$4927.20. Julie moved, Lanette seconded to accept the report; motion carried.

Pastor's report: He confirmed that the Thanksgiving service will be at West Prairie, 7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 20. Christmas Eve service will be at West Prairie, 7 p.m. Advent Adventure will be December 3 following worship service. Crisis Intervention will accept shoe boxes, but un-

wrapped as they are used throughout the year. We need to check with Lou about the Advent wreath if it needs new candles or greenery.

The council and church members plan to go caroling on Dec. 13 to Forest Plaza and Good Samaritan Center. Pastor will check if that day works. More info to follow.

A new ADA approved lavatory has been installed in the women's bathroom. A safety bar has been installed in the adjoining lavatory stall. Thanks to Caroll and Janell for doing this. Wendell moved and Lisa seconded to use money from the building fund to pay for the bathroom improvements. Motion carried.

A new lock has been installed on the west single walk-in door to the church. The old one replaced the one on the east kitchen door.

The next meeting is December 13 after caroling.

Wendell moved to adjourn, seconded by Phyllis; motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lanette Branstad, secretary.

Dec 14, 2017

The council convened at Lanette's home after we went caroling at Forest Plaza and the Good

New Year's Resolutions — How did that get started?

The custom of making “New Year’s resolutions” to change and improve oneself is most common here in the U.S., but it does happen all over the world. So, how did this tradition get its start?

It seems that the ancient Babylonians are responsible for setting this custom or tradition — some 4,000 years ago. The new year began mid-March at that time and it was during a 12-day festival the people would reaffirm their loyalty to the reigning king or crown a new king. They promised to the gods they would repay their debts and return any borrowed items. They believed the gods would favor them for these acts in the new year. Drastic consequences for those not complying.

A similar practice in ancient Rome ensued after Julius Caesar established January 1 as the beginning of the year.

For Christians, John Wesley (founder of Methodism) held a service of scripture readings and hymn singing either on New Year’s Eve or

New Year’s Day to celebrate the coming new year. Known as watch night services, many Protestant churches still hold New Year’s Eve services in prayer and meditation.

According to recent polls, about half of Americans say they make New Year’s resolutions, but the success rate is about a measly 8 percent.

Perhaps we need to re-evaluate the resolutions we make — find something that is really important — life changing. See Pastor’s article!

ATTENTION

Time change on Sunday, Jan. 28 for West Prairie — Worship Service with Holy Communion will be at 8:30 a.m. This allows Zion to hold late worship service prior to their annual meeting.

Midweek Bible Study will resume beginning Tuesday, January 2 — 7 p.m.



Photo by Jill Holland

CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight Service is always a moving celebration of Christ’s birth. Check out West Prairie Facebook and WEB page for living color photos.

PASTOR’S LETTER continued from page 1

We cannot properly love and serve others until we have honored God with our worship. “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.” (Is. 6:3)

T = Thankfulness: We need to be thankful people, people of prayer and grateful people for we love and serve a gracious and loving God who meets all our needs. God has blessed us! Thanks be to God! “Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (I Thess. 5:18)

So, fill up with M.E.A.T. this year! You’ll never get too fat on this kind of meat! See you in church!

Pastor Steve