

WPLC Newsletter

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October +++ Volume 2017, No. 10

The mission of Washington Prairie Lutheran Church is:

- To create and maintain a welcoming community of believers;
- To witness to the reconciling Word of God which comes to us through Word and Sacrament.
- We are united in a steadfast spiritual journey of worship, support, learning, and service to one another, our neighbors, and to our world with the love of Jesus Christ.



Some conversations in recent weeks and months have stirred up a question that keeps bubbling to the surface of my mind. As individuals, what do we expect of our faith? Or, as a congregation, what do we expect of our life together at Washington Prairie Lutheran Church?

The rhetoric sounding around us is charged and volatile. Socially, we're experiencing changes that completely turn traditional values upside down and inside out. Economically, we noticing that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, and that the middle class is shrinking. Politically, major political parties and elected leadership are simply unable to work together and stoke a sense of bipartisanship where people are able to hear divergent ideas, be respectful, seek consensus, and arrive at decisions that are sensitive and responsive so everyone can feel a sense of ownership. Values, money, politics—all are emotional, all are volatile.

We need to ask ourselves, does our faith have any place in these huge conversations as they unfold around us? Our faith is grounded and shaped by God as God is revealed in Jesus. Jesus is loving and compassionate. Jesus looks out for the forgotten. Jesus builds people up. Not only does Jesus lift people up from the gutters of sin, Jesus lifts people up to dignity, to wholeness. Not only does Jesus lift us from our death to new life, Jesus lifts us up from our dead ways of thinking and being to live as God's people. Does our faith in Jesus inform our conversation with the world around us? Can we as people of faith talk together about the world around us, even if we don't agree or fully understand a different perspective?

What do we expect of our faith? Probably for most of us, faith comes to the front of our mind when there are bumps along the way of life and we hope that God will fix the trouble. We might find ourselves turning to our faith when we are seeking comfort and security; or when the day or week is fast paced and our heads are spinning and needing a still point; or when life seems out of control and we want to restore our sense of stability; or when death has intruded and we seek comfort in God's promise of resurrection. This is right, and this is good.

A scene from The Sound of Music comes to my mind. Maria, who has only known life in the abbey but still doesn't quite fit in to a cloistered life, is sent to be the nanny for the seven VonTrapp children. Maria and the children learn to love each other. In fact Maria also realizes she has an attraction to Captain VonTrapp who is soon to be married. In her confusion Maria runs back to the abbey solitude. When Maria is called to the office of her Mother Superior, Maria speaks her confusion. Maria is sent back to the VonTrapp home because the abbey, our faith, is not a place to hide from life.

Indeed, while our faith gives great comfort, it is also not a hiding place. We should expect our faith to nudge us out of our comfort zone. Our faith is a living relationship with God, and relationships grow and mature. And our faith speaks to the world around us. When what's going on down the street or road, or across town and country, or around the world, is not consistent with God's way, we are called to speak up and work for justice.

This is also why we observe the Reformation five hundred years after Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the church door. We continue to gather around Word and Sacrament to be nurtured and nudged to be God's presence in a hurting world today.

God's blessings,

Pastor Jerry



Reformation 500

1517 -- 2017

On October 31st believing people in churches around the world will be observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation which was sparked by the Augustinian monk, Martin Luther. Martin Luther felt that the Word of God, the Bible, was the true guide for the church, not church traditions. Luther also found great joy in the Biblical concept of grace (God's Riches At Christ's Expense) because our relationship with God is a gift we receive from God, and not something we merit or make for ourselves.

Luther also made several other contributions through his concern for a reforming church. The Bible and worship were translated into the language of the people. Music and hymnody was restored to the worship service. Luther understood that all the baptized people were priests, called in baptism to serve God and God's people. He equipped parents to teach the faith to children and authored The Small Catechism as a teaching tool. Timing meant that the Lutheran Reformation affected life beyond the walls of the church as nation-states began emerging from the declining Holy Roman Empire.

Here at Washington Prairie Lutheran Church, we will be celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation during the month of October. We'll begin that celebration on October 1st with a potluck meal after worship. Sunday morning worship during the month will be a time to recall bits and pieces of our Lutheran heritage and ponder ways we as individuals and together as the church are still reforming, a work in progress under the direction of the Holy Spirit. On Reformation Sunday four of our confirmants will be confirmed.

Watch for more details in the weekly bulletins and the October newsletter. Come, worship, and join in the glad celebration.



Adults, just like young ones, need to grow in grace and faith. Starting on September 5th there will be a Bible study at 6:30 pm and will last one hour. We'll plan on meeting in the Oak Room at the church. For starters, we will study the lessons for the coming Sunday. The study each week will be "self contained" so that a study doesn't depend on previous studies to make sense.

Non-Farm Acres

***If you are interested in managing the non-farm acres of Washington Prairie Lutheran Church, please contact a member of the Vision Board. The non-farm acres include the orchard and the timber which is on church land. Contact any of the following: Joel Teslow, 382-0484, Bruce Schuman, 382-3991, Karla Bakken, 382-6168, Davis Johnson, 382-4350, Karen Lee, 382-2520, Ron Moen, 382-4749, John Kelly, or Pastor Jenny, 515-368-1760.

Washington Prairie Lutheran Church
Vision Board
August 3, 2017

Members Present: Joel Teslow, Bruce Schuman, Karla Bakken, Ron Moen, Karen Lee and Pastor Jenny Edinger

Members Absent: John Kelly, Davis Johnson

Visitor: Jane Orvela

Called to Order:

President Joel Teslow called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

Devotions were led by Pastor Jenny Edinger

Visitor:

Jane Orvela presented a project that she is working on.

Jane was able to receive material, free of charge, from Jane Snitker. Jane Snitker was retiring and closing her fabric store and donated material to local churches.

Jane Orvela is working on quilts for foster kids from the material that she received. She has already contacted DHS to see if there was a need in the community and they said yes.

Jane has looked into grants, donations from local businesses, but would like some money to get things started.

Bruce said he and Betty would donate some money to get the first round of batting bought.

Jane would like to set up a day where the congregation can come in and help tie the quilts.

Jane would like to see this as an ongoing project with our church.

Secretary's Report:

Karla moved to accept the minutes as printed. Karen seconded.

Treasurer's Report:

Joel emailed Mary to clarify items from the 4/30 report. Mary explained it was a typo and fixed it.

Joel moved to accept report. Bruce seconded.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Jenny handed out her pastoral report showing what she has done over the last month.

Karla moved to accept the report with the change to the July Statistical Adjustments, Ron seconded.

Old Business:

Finance Committee

Final copy of the Finance Committee description was reviewed.

Joel moved to accept the final copy, Karla seconded.

Original was signed and returned to Finance committee with copies being distributed to the Vision Board members.

South entry door and Kitchen door

Doors are in but trim work still needs to be done.

Ron will talk to Jim to see what options we have to finish the work.

Ron will take the main key to Tony to get the two new locks keyed the same so one key can open all doors to the church.

Photo of Pastor Jenny

Not completed yet.

Endowment Committee

EC does not feel it falls within their bylaws to manage the accounts presented to them. (Ave of Flags, Koren Display and New Parsonage Fund)

If the VB would like them to take them on, they would need direction from the VB as to what to do with them.

Joel will contact Craig to discuss.

Land Rental

A letter will be sent to the current renter before Sept. 1.

Joel will draft and Ron will look over to make sure information is correct.

Information will be in the August newsletter regarding the rental option for farmers.

Thank you to Hanson Families

Karla will get addresses from Pastor tonight and send out.

Young Adults in Global Mission in Hungary

The VB randomly selected a young adult to sponsor out of the options we were given.

Food Pantry

Rachel Hanson will be the representative from Washington Prairie.

VB suggested that our representative serve for 2 years on the Food Pantry Board.

Pastor also handed out a list of possible volunteer opportunities with the Food Pantry. This information will be put in the newsletter and bulletin.

New Business:

Service projects

Joel discussed some more on what the Puppy Jake project is.

Joel and his boys will look into the project and bring more information so we can see how the church can help.

Faith Formation Ministry Team

Pastor announced that there are members willing to be on the Faith Formation Ministry Team.

Rachel Hanson, Annie Sadler and Becky Quam have agreed to be part of the team. Karla Bakken will serve as a representative from the Vision Board.

The first meeting will be Wed., August 9 at 5 p.m.

Next Vision Board Meeting:

Thursday, September 7, 6:30 pm at WPLC

Meeting Adjourned

Bruce motioned to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Bakken

Vision Board Secretary

Faith Formation Ministry Team
August 9, 2017

Members present: Rachel Hanson, Karla Bakken, Annie Sadler, Pastor Jenny Edinger

Sunday School:

Teachers were discussed for the upcoming year

Pre-K/K - Karla Bakken will teach

1st - 2nd - will ask Jordyn again

3rd - 4th - will ask Joel again

5th - 6th - Kathy Moen will teach

7th - 8th - teacher needed

Jordyn has agreed to teach music, need to ask Paul if he will play piano

Will need to look for substitutes

Materials

We are on the blue year rotation

Will need to contact teachers to see if they need any materials

Calendar

2017-2018 calendar has been updated and will be distributed to families

First day of Sunday School will be Sept. 10th

Faith Formation team will host an ice cream party after church to celebrate the kick-off to the Sunday School year. Will serve ice cream with choice of toppings and root beer floats.

Christmas program

Will ask Jordyn and Paul if they are interested in being the directors of the program again this year.

Bibles for 2nd graders

We will have one student/ Bible for sure.

Rachel will contact other families on the roster to see if they would like one as well. (members who have been baptized at WPLC but are either not in the area or are attending other churches)

Confirmation:

Confirmation Sunday

Will be Oct. 29, 2017

Chip Peterson will be at WPLC at 9:00 a.m. to take pictures

Flowers will be ordered from Country Garden

One flower arrangement on altar

One boutonniere per youth getting confirmed

Carnation, baby's breath and greens

Start Date

7th and 8th grade confirmation will start on Wed., Sept. 13 at 6 p.m.

9th graders will attend at the same time until they are confirmed

There will be a Confirmation Family potluck the first Wed. night of confirmation.

Curriculum

Currently use "Here we Stand"

Pastor is looking for other options and will have the final decision on what she uses.

Sermon Notes

Discussion was held on the youth completing sermon notes.

It was decided that youth in confirmation will need to complete 25 sermon notes by the end of the confirmation year.

If they are not able to attend church, they may complete a bible study and that will count toward the 25.

First Communion:

There is one t that would be eligible for First Communion Class this year

Pastor will talk to the family to see if they would like to proceed this year or wait if they feel the child is not ready.

Another option is to review all the materials with the 3rd and 4th graders and then have First Communion for the one 3rd grader.

Youth:

Middle School Lock-In at UNI will be held Oct. 13-14

Last year we sent kids who were of confirmation age

Pastor will look to see what ages are able to go, just 7th-8th or 5th-8th

National Youth Gathering

There are 3 youth attending the Gathering

Koryn Bakken

Annika Lensch

Abby Moen

Karla Bakken will be attending as the adult, Pastor is considering attending as well.

August 27th there will be a Chicken Dinner Fundraiser for the youth attending.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Give more to the church and end up with more money in your pocket? Sound too good to be true. Maybe not. See the Endowment Committee.

Craig Spilde-563-382-9497

Jason Soland-563-379-0938

Dan Marlow-563-517-1097

Deadline is October 8th!

Anyone interested in receiving Portals Prayer daily devotional book let Rachel Hanson know. Large print editions are available. Be sure to specify if you want a large print.

A Friendly Reminder!

All cemetery pots need to be removed by Oct 1st. Thank You, The Property.

Worship Task Force September '17

The Worship Task Force met on September 5, 2017, at 5:00pm with Pastor Jenny, Paul, Marilyn, Susie, and Joni in attendance. We reviewed our signup sheet, it is pretty well filled for the fall. Thanks to all who volunteered!

Old Business:

We planned the Reformation 500 potluck as a kickoff on October 1st. Marilyn will get plates, Paul will get drinks, and we will meet at 9:00am to set up.

Pastor Jenny outlined our Sunday services using Martin Luther catechism each week in October as part of the service. On October 22nd, we'll show a movie on Martin Luther after services. On October 29th Reformation Sunday will also be Confirmation with Communion. Pastor Jenny had the hymns for October picked out to go along with her themes. Thank you Pastor.

November 5th All Saints' Day. Paul has sand and bowls, need to check on candles.

November 22nd Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7:00pm with Communion.

New Business:

We looked ahead to Christmas. The 24th is a Sunday and 25th on Monday, we decided to table deciding on when to have services. In the absence of an acolyte, who should light candles? Ushers? We need to review the usher guidelines and list for next year, it was suggested to send these out monthly rather than all at one time.

Choir director? Paul has had contact with a possible Luther student, unsure at this point waiting to hear back. Possibly looking at Sunday morning rehearsals after services, but looking for more singers.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 12th at 6pm.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Bruvold, pro-term



*Washington Prairie Lutheran
Church Annual Fall Festival
and*

Country Store

Saturday, October 21st

10:00 Country Store

11:00 Auction

1:00 Pie Auction

*Lunch will be served throughout the day
by WELCA.*

*A day of fun and fellowship plus some
great shopping and eating!*

See you there!



OPPORTUNITIES TO CARE & SERVE

Welcome to a new section of the newsletter! Maybe you've seen this phrase "God's Work, Our Hands" before! This phrase started with the ELCA to encourage us to show Christ's love in our communities.

Each month, a community service opportunity will be highlighted. Information about the service will be given as well as ways we as a congregation or as individuals may help. This is one way to get all your family members involved. Some months we may collect specific items, other months we may be able to share our time, or talents. Other opportunities will also be listed each month.

Be sure to check out these options, choose one (or more!) that you'd like to do. Then get it on your calendar and share it on social media! You never know who might see that and be inspired to join you!

Your input is important! If you know of a service opportunity that you would like to see listed in this section, get the information to the church office.

THIS MONTH'S OPPORTUNITIES

***The Vision Board of Washington Prairie Lutheran Church has set October 1st, & 8th to receive a special offering for hurricane recovery for people affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Please write your name and envelope number on a plain white envelope and indicate Harvey or Irma if you prefer your

gift to be directed to Texas or Florida. Gifts from members of the congregation will be sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief and recovery go directly to helping hurricane victims. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Bremwood Opportunity

During the month of October, we will be collecting items needed by the residents of Bremwood. Some quilts made at do-days will be taken to Bremwood along with any of the following items collected.

School supplies:

Loose leaf paper
Composition notebooks-NOT spiral bound
Dry erase markers
Washable markers
Ear buds

Personal care items-both men & women's products and sizes:

Body wash
Deodorant
Shampoo & Conditioner
Socks-adult sizes
T-shirts-adult sizes small to 3X
Sweatshirts-adult sizes small to 3X
Sweatpants-adult sizes small to 3X

Twin size mattress pads
Twin size sheet sets
Bed size pillows

If you prefer not to shop Wal-Mart gift cards or cash can always be used.

Let's see if we can fill a car or two with our donations! A day trip to Bremwood will be planned in November to deliver the quilts and other donations.

Opportunity!

On October 1st after worship service we will be having a potluck and then have the opportunity to help tie quilts that Jane Orvella has made for the foster children program of Northeast Iowa. Remember "God's work, Our hands!"

GOD'S WORK-OUR HANDS PROJECT

The second batch of quilts to be donated as gifts or auctioned for fund-raisers. The first group was sent to Ewalu Quilt auction on September 16th, seven quilts were sent which brought in \$600 of the seven two were bought and sent to Bremwood. These quilts were all made from the 700+ yards of fabric generously donated by "Country Stitchin' Quilt Shop" by Rossville on highway 76 and are to be used for local projects.

Some of the suggestions are Helping Services, Abused women, shut-ins, hospice, and to sell some at our Fall Fest to be used to purchase more fabric and batting to help keep this on going project.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who have helped with sewing, and tying. As the August newsletter said, "God's Work, Our Hands", a phrase to encourage us to show Christ's love in our communities and be able to share our time and talents to help others. It's amazing what many hands can accomplish when working together.

OUR 2017-18 SUNDAY SCHOOL ROSTER

PRE-K/K CLASS:

TEACHER: Karla Bakken

STUDENTS:

Brock Teslow
Eli Lyons

MUSIC:

TEACHER: Jordyn Hussian
Paul Bruvold

1ST & 2ND GRADES:

TEACHER: Jordyn Hussian

STUDENTS:

Hanna Lensch (1)
Kora Kelly (2)

3RD & 4TH GRADES:

TEACHER: Joel Teslow

STUDENTS:

Adrian Smith (3)	Jule Sadler (4)	William Robinson (4)
Olivia Quam (4)	Jake Teslow (4)	
Kendal Quam (4)	Klara Kelly (4)	

5TH & 6TH GRADES:

TEACHER: Kathy Moen

STUDENTS:

Jerald Thompson (5)	Kathryn Kelly (6)
Karmyn Bakken (5)	Will Teslow (6)

7TH & 8TH GRADES:

TEACHER:

STUDENTS:

Morgan Moen (7)	Hudson Quam (8)
Lacie Bjergum (8)	Koryn Bakken (8)
Jenna Sadler (8)	

9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION:

TEACHER: Pastor Jenny

STUDENTS:

Abby Moen (9)	Charles Robinson (9)	Amber Hussain (9)
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Washington Prairie's WELCA Treasurer's Report
August 2017

Balance Forward		\$6,924.10
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Receipts:

Martha Circle	August offering	\$18.00
Mary Circle	August offering	\$11.00
Naomi Circle	August offering	\$31.00
Rachel Circle		
Rebecca Circle	August offering	\$19.00
Dennis Johnson Memorial LWR shipping		\$10.00
Mary Circle serving July Luncheon		\$380.00
Total Receipts:		\$469.00

Disbursements:

Total Disbursements:	None	0
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Ending Balance:		\$7,393.10
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Special Funds:

Love Gifts	\$2,617.45
Prayer Shawl Yarn	\$94.54
Improvement fund	\$1,798.45
Bingo Fund	\$139.76
To Be Designated	\$480.00
Kitchen remodel	\$393.93
LWR Shipping Fund	\$130.00
Total funds:	\$5,654.13
General Funds:	\$1,738.97

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Wangness, Treasurer

October
 Lectors/Readers/Communion Assist/Ushers/Acolytes
 And Coffee Hour

	Sunday morning coffee	Readers	Acolytes	Ushers For the Month	Communion Assist
1		Craig Splide	Hudson Quam	Jesse Lyon Ken Ottesen Jim Ludeking Tony Lea	Jeanette Splide
8	Melanie Tietz	Jeanette Splide	Annika Lensch		Not needed
15	Jean Dickman	Carol Bergan	Annika Lensch Abby Moen		Donna Ashbacher
22	Kay Erdman	Marilyn Sensor	Morgan Moen		Not needed
29	Arla Ihde	Pat Ellingson	Hudson Quam		Not needed

2017 General Fund Reconciled

8/1 Balance brought forward	\$ 38,848.39
August Income	\$ 11,977.41
August Expenses	<u>\$ (10,426.90)</u>
8/31/ Balanced carried forward	<u>\$ 40,398.90</u>

2017 Mission Fund Balance	\$12,000.00
8/31 Sent to Synod	<u>\$ 7,561.00</u>
Balance remaining for 2017	<u>\$ 4,439.00</u>

Respectfully submitted,
 Mary Hegg, Financial Secretary

Attention: Washington Prairie's Farmland For Rent

Vision Board will be accepting bids from interested members of Washington Prairie for a 3 year rental of church farmland, approximately 42 acres, beginning on March 1, 2018.

Washington Prairie reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Sealed bids are due by 6:30 pm on October 5, 2017. Bids can be given to any Vision Board members or dropped off at the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



305 Montgomery St., PO Box 487, Decorah, IA 52101
Administrative Offices: 563-382-8436 – Fax: 563-382-9854
Transit: 1-866-382-4259 – Fax: 563-382-4681
www.neicac.org

Please publish the following in your church bulletin

NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL? The 2017-2018 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. Applications for elderly (60 & older) and/or disabled may be completed October 2, 2017 to April 30, 2018. All other households may complete an application November 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018.

WHAT TO TAKE: Proof of Income (for all household members age 19, and over), Social Security numbers for all household members (documentation required), recent heat bill and electric bill

- **WAGE EARNERS:** Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent filed federal income tax return.
- **OTHER COUNTABLE INCOME** includes Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program (FIP), Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, pensions, and child support.
- **SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS** must bring a copy of your most recent filed federal income tax return.

INCOME MAXIMUMS		
Household Size	One Month Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1	\$1,759	\$21,105
2	\$2,368	\$28,420
3	\$2,978	\$35,735
4	\$3,588	\$43,050
5	\$4,197	\$50,365
6	\$4,807	\$57,680

For households with more than six members, add \$610 per 30 days or \$7,315 annually for each additional member

(PLEASE ONLY USE THE LOCATIONS LISTED BELOW THAT ARE IN YOUR AREA)

Cresco - (563) 547-4413
Decorah - (563) 382-8436 Ext 150
Elkader - (563) 245-2452
New Hampton - (641) 394-2007
Oelwein - (319) 283-2510
Postville - (563) 864-3363
Waukon - (563) 568-4224
Waverly - (319) 352-4532
West Union - (563) 422-3354

If you have any questions please call me at 563-382-9608 or email me at khenry@neicac.org.

Thank You!

Karen Henry, CCAP, NCRT
LIHEAP Director

October 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 8:45sm Sunday School 10am Worship Service Potluck after worship/tie quilts for foster children Choir practice after worship	2 7:30pm Endowment Committee meets 7pm Property committee meets	3 6pm Worship Team meets 6:30 pm Bible Study @ parish hall	4 6pm Confirmation Class	5 6:30pm Vision Board meets	6	7
8 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship Service Choir Practice after worship 6pm WPP 4-H meets in parish hall	9	10 6:30 pm Bible Study @ parish hall	11 11 am Holy Communion Worship @ Eastern Star 6pm Confirmation class	12	13	14
15 8:45am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service Choir practice after worship service	16 Newsletter items due to the office	17 2:30pm Holy Communion Worship @ Wellington Place 6:30 pm Bible Study @ parish hall	18 6pm Confirmation class	19	20	21 11am Fall Fest
22 8:45 am Sunday School 10am Worship Service Choir practice after worship	23	24 Rebecca Circle 6:30 pm Bible Study @ parish hall	25 10:30am Holy Communion Worship @ Aase Haugen 6pm Confirmation Class	26 9am Martha Circle 11:30 am Rachel Circle 7:30pm Naomi Circle	27	28
29 8:45 am Sunday School 10am Confirmation during Worship Service Choir practice after worship	30	31 6:30 pm Bible Study @ parish hall				