WPLC Newsletter

Office: 563-382-3247
Email: admin@washingtonprairielutheran.org
Website: www.washingtonprairielutheran.org

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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.**

In days when I was a rookie pastor, the congregation I was serving decided to participate in the Word and Witness program. The 54-week course had a rigorous Bible study together with a witness component. It was the kind of course that asked everyone to do some serious rethinking of Biblical understandings.

The Bible study did not go book by book, or chapter by chapter, or verse by verse and ask questions like, "What color was the green grass Jesus stood on?" Instead, major themes were lifted. The course emphasized that God is a God of justice, mercy, and peace. Rather than quoting a specific verse, people were directed to stories showing justice, or mercy, or peace in the making.

God's people, the Israelites were in Egypt because Joseph, Jacob's favorite son, had ended up in Egypt and stored up food for a time of famine. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food, and a family reunion happened in Egypt. But the Egyptians forgot that Joseph had protected them from the famine. When the Egyptians became frightened by the Israelites among them, God's people were enslaved and they cried to God for help. God acted in mercy to restore justice so the people could again live in peace. God is a God of justice, mercy, peace.

And when the people God loves are enslaved by sin and death, Jesus comes in mercy to restore justice by dying on the cross so we can be raised up in forgiveness and new life to be at peace with God and one another. God is a God of justice, mercy, peace. God looks out for those who are broken by doing justice, by embracing with mercy, by restoring peace.

These learnings have bubbled back into my awareness in recent weeks because of the headlines that greet us in the media. To use the words of the Angel Gabriel in Marc Connelly's Green Pastures, "Everything tied down is coming loose." Things are bumpy in Washington, D.C. Investigations are underway. Russia is flexing military muscles and meddling. North Korea is messing with nuclear missiles. Health care is way too costly. And we could go on and on.

Decisions need to be made. Even when we don't agree on the problem. Even when our partisan loyalties are different. Even when we like our opinions more than others. Even when our needs and interests vary. Even when we don't agree.

Answers are elusive. As we think through difficult issues, the Bible offers some guidelines. Ours is a God who seeks justice, and mercy, and peace. As God's people, we are called to seek justice or fairness, we are called to seek mercy or compassion, we are called to work for peace or wholeness. Decisions and answers aren't just about personal preferences, or political platforms, or military strategies. We are God's people seeking God's way of looking out for the overlooked and building up the down-and-out. God's way is justice, mercy and peace. As so, we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God (Amos 6.8)

Peace be with you.

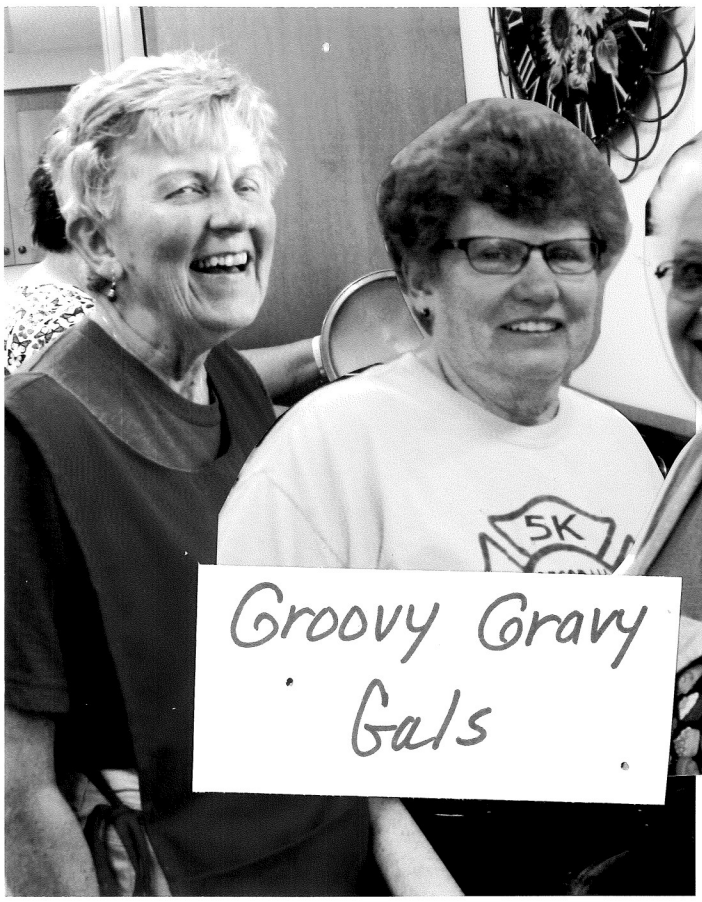
Pastor Jerry

SONS OF NORWAY SUPPER

PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE PARISH HALL FOR MORE PICTURES

Marvelous Monday Morning Prep Crew

Super Duper Servers



Groovy Gravy Gals

Lovely Lefse Ladies

Bustling Beverage Crew

Washington Prairie Lutheran Church
Vision Board
April 6, 2017

Members Present: Joel Teslow, Bruce Schuman, Karla Bakken, Ron Moen, Karen Lee, Davis Johnson and Pastor Jenny Edinger
Members Absent: John Kelly

Called to Order:
President Joel Teslow called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.
Devotions were led by Pastor Jenny Edinger

Secretary's Report:
Bruce moved to accept the minutes as amended (term limits to term lengths), Karen seconded.

Treasurer's Report:
Balance of $39,906.16, Pancake supper brought in $1,822.
Karla moved to accept, Ron seconded.

Pastor's Report:
Pastor Jenny handed out her pastoral report showing what she has done over the last month, Pastor attended the Day or Renewal with Bishop Ullestad and was invited to the Capital by Mike Bergan to say a prayer.
Davis moved to accept the report as presented, Ron seconded.

Old Business:
Financial Secretary job description
- Finance Committee worked on rewording the Financial Secretary position description. The Vision Board reviewed and edited the job description. Davis moves to accept the Financial Secretary job duties document with amendments as discussed. Karen seconded. Motion passed.
- Finance Committee will make changes and email the final copy to Pastor.

Job duties and descriptions
- Finance Committee duties were reviewed. Changes and amendments were made and will be taken back to the committee by Davis.
- Finance Committee and Property committee cross over duties were discussed
  - Clarified details regarding mowing/snow removal/farm rental
  - Mowing and snow removal will be handled by the Property Committee
  - Farm Rental will be handled by both, Finance Committee with be in charge of the rental process, Property Committee will be in charge of taking care of any property issues with the farmland.

South entry door
- Door has been ordered, not in yet
- Ron fixed the kitchen door, will put up a note on the door on the correct way to unlock/lock the door so the issue does not happen again.

Water Quality
- A new iron curtain and water softener has been installed.

Basement mold and mildew
- Property committee is handling

New Business:
Water testing
- Has been completed for March, will need to be done for April.

Luther League Checking account

Discussion was held regarding where the account is held, the location of the checkbook, and the authorized signers on the account.

Washington Prairie Lutheran Church Vision Board authorizes Pastor Jennifer Edinger to close the Washington Prairie Lutheran Church Luther League checking (983-008061) and savings (983-003104) accounts at Bank of the West and move them to Viking State Bank and reopen a new checking account with Pastor Jennifer Edinger and Davis Johnson, Vision Board Treasurer, as signees. So moved by Karen, seconded by Bruce. Motion passed.

Photo of Pastor Jenny

Pastor Jenny will arrange a time with Chip Peterson to take her photo so we can hang it the Parish Hall.

Karen will take photo to Perfect Edge and have it framed in a similar frame to the other photos. Karen will also take care of getting the engraving done.

2nd meeting for Constitutional changes

There needs to be a 2nd church meeting to accept the changes to the constitution. Set date of April 30th, no potluck.

Endowment committee

Craig Spilde requests authorization to be an online administrator for the Mission Investment fund through the ELCA. Karla so moves, Davis seconded. Motion passed.

Next Vision Board Meeting:

Thursday, May 4, 6:30 pm at WPLC

Meeting Adjourned

Ron motioned to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.
Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Karla Bakken
Vision Board Secretary

2017 General Fund Reconciled

4/1 Balance brought forward	$ 39,906.16
April Income	$ 13,381.27
April Expenses	$(11,915.46)
4/30 Balanced carried forward	**$41,371.97**
2017 Mission Fund Balance	$12,000.00
4/30 Sent to Synod	**$ 3,691.00**
Balance remaining for 2017	**$ 8,309.00**

Repectfully submitted,
Mary Hegg, Financial Secretary

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*****

Helping Services of Northeast Iowa helps individuals and families in a variety of ways. Here's a list of Good Care Products that are always needed:

laundry soap, cleaning supplies,
paper products, toiletries, towels

All products should be new/unopened.

Look for boxes in the Parish Hall and at the west doors to leave any of these products. They will get delivered at the end of June.
Urgent Needs:

Cash so needed items can be purchased,
Gas & grocery cards,
Gift cards, Safe House Volunteers

Send these items to:
Helping Services of Northeast Iowa
PO Box 372
Decorah, Iowa 52101,or call: 382-5730

WELCA NEWS

Salad Greens for the Community Meal

For two Sundays in April we collected money for our congregation to make salads for the Community Meal held on April 20th in Decorah. Thanks to your generosity we collected $230. We went shopping for groceries and spent $181. On Wednesday before the dinner we gathered at church and made 17 yummy salads, which we delivered on Thursday. We donated the remaining balance of $49 to the Community Meal program. They were grateful for the money and the salads. Thank you WPLC!

Summer Bible Study

The W/ELCA Summer Bible Study will be held on Thursday June 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at First Lutheran in Decorah. Pastor Melissa Bills will lead the study and discussion on the theme: "ALL ANEW: Ready or Not." The study is in the June and July *Gather* magazines but copies will also be available at the Study. Coffee will be served at 9 a.m. A salad luncheon will be served at noon. Please call Monica at the church office before Tuesday, June 20 by 4 p.m.

Washington Prairie WELCA's Treasurer's Report
April 2017

Balance Forward			$4,930.65
Receipts:			
Martha Circle	April offering		
Mary Circle	Mar/Apr offering	$22.00	
Naomi Circle	April offering		
Rachel Circle	April offering	$75.00	
Rebecca Circle	April offering	$10.00	
Mary Circle- Lenten Supper		$256.00	
April W/ELCA Meeting offering		$49.75	
Garage Sale Income		$1,200.50	
Love gift		$25.00	
Total Receipts:			$1,638.25
Disbursements:			
#5062 1st Lutheran Food Pantry		$600.25	
#5063 1st Lutheran Free Clinic		$600.25	
#5065 Jean Dickman Bingo Eastern Star		$28.40	
#5066 Jean Dickman Kitchen Supplies		$18.25	
#5064 and #5067 uncleared checks			
Total Disbursements:			$1,247.15
Ending Balance:			$5,321.75

Special Funds:	
Love Gifts	$975.00
Prayer Shawl Yarn	$113.70
Improvement fund	$1,798.45
Bingo Fund	$139.76
To Be Designated	$0.00
Kitchen remodel	$552.50
Fall Fest	$879.51
LWR Shipping Fund	$100.00
Total funds:	$4,558.92
General Funds:	$762.83

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Wangsness, Treasurer

WASHINGTON PRAIRIE W/ELCA
APRIL 20, 2017
SECOND DO-DAY

Melanie Tietz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Martha Ludeking gave devotions based on the words of Jesus "Peace to You".

Secretary's report and treasurer's report were approved. An extra $25 was received from the garage sale. Sadie Sersland suggested this be put with the Love Gifts. All approved. There is a balance in the kitchen remodel fund. It was decided to leave this for now.

Karen Guttebo moved, Ardys Barth seconded, to designate $250 to Mary Circle from three funerals to go to the Improvement Fund. Carried.

Roberta Murray moved, Lois Estrem seconded, to designate $100 to Rachel Circle for Lutheran World Relief for shipping of quilts. Carried.

The Sons of Norway dinner is May 16. Ann Moen will head the prep committee, Jean Dickman the servers and Cynthia Jacobson the clean-up. There will be lists to sign up for the various areas needed.

The Spring Gathering of the Upper Iowa River Cluster D will be Saturday, April 29, at Lime Springs Lutheran Church. Donna Ashbacher moved, Sadie Sersland seconded, to send $100 for the offering for this. Carried.

$230 was collected for making salads for the Community Supper, April 20. $181 was spent for ingredients leaving a balance of $49. Seven people made 17 salads. Linda Johnson moved, seconded by Donna Ashbacher, to give the balance to the community meals. Carried.

There has been discussion on an interior church clean-up. Martha and Melanie will make a list of things needed to be done and take to the Property Committee. W/ELCA will work with the Property Committee to accomplish how and what needs to be done.

Linda Johnson moved, Roberta Murray seconded, to apply decals above the serving window. Carried.

Offering of $49.75 was received. We prayed the Lord's Prayer followed by adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Dickman, Acting Secretary

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

	Sunday morning coffee	Readers	Acolytes	Ushers For the Month	Communion Assist
4		Cheryl Wangsness		Ron Moen Jason Soland Jim Orvella Lloyd Bjergum	Wayne Remmen
11					Not needed
18					Lois Estrem
25		Marilyn Sensor			Not needed

Bible Characters of the N. T.

G S W O E A Q
Z I U W E H L X O
C U Y E F T F U R T D
W I C H A W M B A E S R K
J O H N T H E B A P T I S T V
G O D D J O C K H R S E R M J J H
H R S I A O M C U S T E P H E N U B J
O P E W N A I A L A H Y D C A I D Y L
H C P P I S T Z S C O A W S U I A G G
J R H I C B L C E R L M X U J Z S W R
C R Q L O N A Q E O O Q T S N M J E L
F B W A D F Z F S D M S E E K U P Y P
V F H T E B A Z I L E P N J V Z F U E
O Z E M I R D R M W T S Q R K U C
Z G U K U M A T T H E W E W D
S S A S P H I L E M O N S
G Y E A P T Y R A M M
V Q C W U O O J T
L M H S E D R

Bartholomew
Dorcas
Elizabeth
Gaius
God
Herod
James
Jesus Christ
John
John the Baptist
Joseph
Judas
Lazarus
Luke
Lydia
Mary
Matthew
Nicodemus
Paul
Peter
Pharisees
Philemon
Pilate
Stephen
Timothy
Titus
Widow
Zacchaeus

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30pm Vision Board meeting	2	3 Parish Hall Reserved for Lois Estrem
4 10 am Worship service	5 9am-12 Vacation Bible school @Stone Ridge Church 7pm Property Committee meeting	6 9am-12 Vacation Bible school @Stone Ridge Church 6pm Worship Team meeting	7 9am-12 Vacation Bible school @Stone Ridge Church	8 9am-12 Vacation Bible school @Stone Ridge Church	9 NEIA Synod Assembly 9am-12 Vacation Bible school @Stone Ridge Church	10 NEIA Synod Assembly
11 10am Worship Service NEIA Synod Assembly 6pm WPP 4-H meets in Parish hall	12 5:30pm Endowment Committee meeting	13 5:30pm Board of Education meeting	14 11am Holy Communion Worship service @ Eastern Star	15	16	17
18 10am Worship Service	19 Newsletter items due to office	20 2:30pm Holy Communion Worship @ Wellington Place Rebecca Circle meets	21	22 9am Martha Circle meets 11:30am Rachel Circle meets @ senor citizens 7:30pm Naomi Circle meets in parish hall/potluck 4pm Mary Circle meets @ Karen Guttebo's potluck	23	24
25 10am Worship Service	26	27 Rebecca Circle meets	28 10:30am Holy Communion Worship @ Aase Haugen	29	30	