



St. Paul's Epistle ~ November 2021



Church Council Minutes—October 7, 2021

Those in attendance: Pastor Quast, Richard Christie, Leonard Morrison, Leanna Hasbargen and Sally Batdorf
Chairman Richard Christie called the meeting to order. Pastor Quast gave the opening devotion titled, "Treating Others as You Would Like to Be Treated". The Minutes and Treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved.

Briefs: 1) A mission opportunity to purchase clerical shirts for seminary students in South Sudan was presented and the motion carried to donate \$950 for Pastor Lutz to order the shirts and take them with him to South Sudan in November. 2) A date will be set for the start of Sunday School. 3) Quarterly Meeting is set for October 17, 2021. 4) There is over \$8000.00 in our roof repair fund. 5) People will be contacted in regards to snow removal for the winter.

Membership changes: Funerals—Leona Larson on September 17, 2021. New member through Profession of Faith: Bev Beck on September 12, 2021.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by ~ Sally Batdorf, Secretary

Quarterly Meeting Minutes—October 17, 2021

Pastor Quast opened the meeting with prayer.

The Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports were presented and approved.

Briefs: 1) Pastor Quast reported that he is holding, Adult Instruction Class, Youth Catechism and an online Bible Study each week. 2) A celebration of All Saints Day and a Memorial Service will be held on October 31 followed by a potluck. 3) The District Convention for the MN North District is being in Brainerd in May. 4) Roof Repair Update: We are waiting on a quote for replacing the flat roof with rafters. 5) \$200 was sent to Northern Options for Women toward their Walk for Life. 6) Operation Christmas Child boxes are available to fill and return by November 14th. 7) Sunday School will start November 7 at 10 a.m. More teachers would be welcome, please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board. 8) Our annual Cookie Walk be held on Thursday, December 2. There will be no luncheon this year. 9) The total for our free will offering for Pastor Bernie Lutz was \$406. 10) Thank you to everyone who helped with our Garage Sale in May.

Membership changes were printed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by ~ Sally Batdorf, Secretary



Go, Make Disciples! ~ A Thank You Letter from Pastor Bernie Lutz

Pastor Quast and Congregation,

I am sending a word of thanks for the monetary gift that you at St. Paul's have sent me to go overseas and to make disciples of all nations! What joy. Your gifts tell the world how much Jesus means to you.

Often I think of how weak I am and how strong you people are up there in I. Falls and Fort Frances, as you speak not with your tongue only, but with support. And great things are getting done because of your prayers and support. Well done, good and faithful servants.

If you have any suggestions on how I can serve you and your mission efforts please let me know. I always enjoy speaking and sharing with you people!

Your special gift of money for clergy shirts has arrived, and I receive it with great thanks.

I am very busy getting ready for the trip to South Sudan! Thanks for your help with the \$950 to help 20 Lutheran Pastors in South Sudan. You didn't hesitate, but took actions when needed and many people will be blessed because of your decision. Thanks for your great love for Jesus, some of that love has reached me!

May the Holy Spirit guide and direct your lives as you serve Him in so many ways.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia.

Pastor Bernie and Elly Lutz



Christmas Cookie Walk

We will be having our annual Cookie Walk on Thursday, December 2, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is NO luncheon this year. Please be generous when called to donate cookies, this is a fund raiser that a lot of people in our community look forward to every year!



November Birthdays

A blessed birthday is wished to these members celebrating this month!

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|------------------------|---------------------|
| November 2: Holly Wold | 21: Steve Rutkowsky |
| 3rd: Liam Quast | 25: Jed Swenson |
| 5th: James Vance | 26: Brent Bacon |
| 11th: Sue Frank | 27: Cindy Story |
| 19th: Shirley Schmidt | |





We are once again participating in **Operation Christmas Child!** Pre-printed shoeboxes are available at church, along with gift suggestions of what to pack in the boxes, and labels to indicate if you've chosen a boy or girl and what age group you've bought for. The filled shoeboxes need to be brought back to the church by Sunday, November 14th along with a \$9 check for each box, made payable to Samaritans Purse. The boxes will then be taken to Psalm FM Radio Station, the collection site for our area.

Sunday, October 31st at our 11 a.m. worship service we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday and remembering all the church members who have passed away in the last year and a half. We will be holding a pot-luck meal following the service, please bring a dish to share.



Sunday School is starting up again on Sunday, November 7 at 10 a.m.! All kids ages 4 and up are invited to join us for Bible lessons, crafts, snacks and other fun activities! More teachers are always welcome, just talk to Pastor Quast or call the church office at 283-8642 to get signed up.

See you there!



Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour before bed on Saturday, November 6th!

A Note from Pastor Jeff Lee—MN North District Office

The state of Nebraska has an odd tourism tagline: “Nebraska, it isn’t for everyone”. I hear that it started as just a tongue in cheek comment that took off. In the movie Unforgiven, there is a line: “I thought I was dead till I found out it was just that I was in Nebraska.” Hubert Humphrey once said that Minneapolis would just be a cold Omaha without a major league sports team. Don’t get me wrong, I resided in Nebraska for 7 years and found many wonderful people, but I have to agree – Nebraska is not for everyone!

What in the world happened that Nebraska had become such a place that even their department of tourism says that it “Isn’t for everyone”? Honestly, I have been in some churches that it seems that could be their tagline as well. “St. John Lutheran Church – it isn’t for everyone.” Can you imagine changing John 3:16 to read: “For God so loved **SOME** people that He gave His one and only Son.”? Or how about: “Go and Make disciples of a select group of nations”? Or I have heard, from time to time in congregations that I have served, that we really needed to make a special effort to bring “**THAT** family” into the church. Or when you stand up for the faith and people leave, you may hear the comment that we lost some “really good givers” as if we should change our position to bring in the dollars.

The truth is: God sent His Son to pay the price for the sins of the whole world. But the whole world has not accepted that gift of life and salvation from GOD. The Church exists to boldly and faithfully proclaim the truth that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and that **NO** one comes to the Father apart from Jesus. There is no other name under heaven by which we are saved. That doesn’t mean we become selective in who we share that message of salvation with so that only the “beautiful people” are saved. We share that Good News with everyone, but we also recognize that there are people who will reject that Good News. People will fashion a god in their own image rather than to celebrate Christ in them. Our nation is becoming hostile to the truth of Holy Scriptures, but we can’t take the attitude that “Christ isn’t for everyone”. We don’t discover the truth by turning inward and getting in touch with our feelings. We need to spend more time looking to the Author and Perfector of our faith. We need to fix our eyes on Jesus. We need to spend more time in the Bible reading it and learning it. We are brought to the waters of Baptism and received into this Holy Nation as a people whose citizenship is in heaven yet residing here in this place and time to share the Hope that we have in the sacrificial gift of God’s Son that covers the guilt of all of our sins. We come to the Altar and confess with the saints there gathered that this **IS** His Body and His Blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. As brothers and sisters in the Church, we support and encourage each other as well as admonish and correct each other so that we all grow up into Christ who is our Head. There is no place for the arrogant conclusion that the “Church isn’t for everyone”. In all humility, I have to confess that I don’t deserve to be a part of the body of Christ or a member of his Holy Christian Church. The Holy Spirit called me by the Gospel and brought me into this fellowship. That Holy Spirit continues to call, gather and enlighten the whole Christian Church and keeps it in the one true faith. In this church He daily and richly forgives me all of my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day, He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.

In His Service, Rev. Jeffrey A. Lee

