



January 2020 Newsletter
Sponsored by
Carleton & Jean Benz in honor of
their 65th wedding anniversary
and in memory of Larry and Brian
and Arletta Crowell
in memory of Elmer

Update on Lay Ministry School

Dec. 2019

Thank you to the congregation for providing the opportunity for Lois Anderson, Arla Block, and Ann Hawley to attend Lay Ministry School in Wausau. We all agree that it has been a rewarding and challenging experience so far!

Lay Ministry School meets one weekend a month (Friday evening and Saturday morning) from September through May for two years. There are readings and assignments that keep us busy! There are two classes that meet on Friday (Systematic Theology and Faith & Spirituality) and two that meet on Saturday (Old Testament and Liturgy & Life). There will be four different classes for the second year. On their website, the purpose of the school is the following: "The lay school exists to equip and challenge adults for their work as disciples of Christ, empowering them for service and ministry in their church and community." People are not certified to be pastors when completing this school, but to feel more equipped to help with lay ministry (leading worship occasionally, visiting the homebound, and developing a deeper understanding of the Bible.) The classes are similar to some that are offered at the seminary, but are more condensed-and there are no tests!

Systematic Theology is definitely the most challenging of the four courses. The entire first session dealt with vocabulary. For example: "Hermeneutics=how we interpret the Bible and make it relevant." That definition sums up the basic purpose of this class. In addition to the vocabulary, we found this course also challenges things that we used to believe were literal in the Bible, but maybe need to be thought of symbolically instead. For example, in Genesis people were listed as living to be hundreds of years old. After the flood and Noah's ark, ages were closer

to our current life expectancy. Symbolically this could be taken as a symbol that there are consequences to humanity for not living the way God wants us to live. Another example concerns the creation story when God created the heavens and the earth and all things on it in six days and then rested on the seventh. We shouldn't take that literally-since who knows how long God's "day" is. The fossil evidence shows that dinosaurs roamed the earth, and lived and died out before humans were on the planet-over a much longer period than a few days. The creation story and many others in the Old Testament were written for the understanding of the ancient people, and were influenced by the beliefs of those who wrote it. It doesn't mean that the Bible is no longer relevant, just that the New Testament is probably more relevant than the Old Testament in today's world with the message that "God is Love" and we need to care for those less fortunate.

The objectives of Faith and Spirituality are to pray more deeply and be aware of God's presence and guidance (receptive prayer) and to understand the importance of Christian community.

The textbook that we use in the Old Testament course (in addition to the Bible) is "A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible." The Old Testament and the Hebrew Bible contain the same books, but they are arranged in a different order. The Roman Catholic Old Testament has additional books than the Protestant Bible. We have discussed Genesis and Exodus so far. We are using narrative criticism, which is a way of reading the Bible that pays close attention to the language and form of the text, the meaning of names, the symbolism used, the setting, and repetition and emotion (if a story is repeated or someone shows strong emotion, it is especially important.) Martin Luther believed that the Bible was inspired by God, but it was written by humans so it's not without error since there are inconsistencies such as two different creation stories.

Liturgy and Life gives us a deeper understanding of the order and functions of the different parts of the worship service and the history of rituals for life passages (baptism, weddings, funerals, healing service.) We are also exploring the church year (Advent, Lent, etc.) Again-thank you for this opportunity! It is a worthwhile use of time-and maybe more people will be interested next year.

With thanks,

Ann, Arla, and Lois

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
December 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Weisensel. Members present included President Dan Weisensel, Vice-President Arla Block, Treasurer Peggy Emmel, Mary Peterson, Paul Pehlke,, Maribeth Netzler, Joy Hartleben, Ann Hawley and Ryan Buntrock. A quorum was present.

Motion made by Joy Hartleben, seconded by Paul Pehlke to approve the agenda with additions. Carried.

Motion made by Paul Pehlke, seconded by Maribeth Netzler to approve the November minutes. Carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

Peggy reported an account balance of \$121,102.33 as of November 30, 2019. Of that amount \$91,304.26 is non-budget, and the budget has a balance of \$29,798.07. Motion by Arla Block, seconded by Ann Hawley to approve the treasurers report. Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parish Life

Discussed funeral procedures.

Parish Education

Working on Christmas program for Dec. 15th.

Two students will be eligible for Confirmation camp this summer.

Worship/Music/Arts

Upcoming services scheduled.

Decorating done with new trees this year.

Large Nativity set needs some repainting.

Trustees

Old trees need to be disposed of.

Ready to close on the parsonage sale on Friday.

Safe in parsonage basement still needs to be moved.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates on parsonage sale

Motion by Arla Block, seconded by Paul Pehlke to adjourn. Carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Peterson

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES
December 15, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Arla Block

Members present:

Vice President: Arla Block

Secretary: Deb Rieck Treasurer/WMA: Peggy Emmel

Education: Ann Hawley, Mary Peterson, Tracy Dombeck

Parish Life: Lois Anderson

Trustee: Paul Pehlke

A quorum was present.

Council Visitors: None

Motion by Lois Anderson, seconded by Mary Peterson, to appoint Ruth Olsen and Kari Zeinert auditors for the 2019 year. Motion carried.

Motion by Paul Pehlke, seconded by Tracy Dombeck, to schedule the 3rd Sunday of January (January 19, 2020) for congregational review of the 2020 Budget after Sunday service, and the 4th Sunday of January (January 26, 2020) to hold the 2020 Annual Meeting after Sunday service. Motion carried.

Deb reported that the parsonage closing took place on Friday, December 13, 2019. Redeemer received \$85,000.

Motion by Peggy Emmel, seconded by Ann Hawley, to adjourn. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Rieck

Council Secretary

Minutes for the Congregational Meeting
December 22, 2019

This special Congregational Meeting was schedule to discuss and vote on the proposed contractual agreement between Zion Lutheran of Tigerton and Redeemer Lutheran of Wittenberg to share the Pastoral Services of Pastor Sharon Fox Bogan.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Dan Weisensel. A determination of a quorum was made (40 members present.)

Dan presented members with a copy of the Pastoral Budget for the 2020 year. The estimated budget for Pastoral salary and expenses is somewhere between \$76,000- \$81,000. This will be divided 50-50 between the two churches. (Finalized budget numbers will be presented at the budget meeting in January.)

Points Discussed:

- Service times will alternate between 8:30 and 10:30 every four months. Redeemer will have service at 8:30 for the months of January thru April. This will switch to a 10:30 service the following 4 months. Then continue to alternate between churches every 4 months for the term of this agreement unless a new schedule is agreed to by both churches.
- Members are encouraged to attend either church that fits their schedule. Collection envelopes labeled Redeemer will go to Redeemer. Collection envelopes labeled Zion will go to Zion.
- The current contract is a 6 month contract. After 6 months it can be renewed or changed. Synod encourages the churches to consider becoming a 2-point parish if the union is successful.
- Pastor will have office hours 1 day a week at Zion and 1 day at Redeemer.
- Each church will maintain their own identity.

There was time for questions and discussions.

Dan called for a show of hands all in favor of accepting the contract agreement for the Pastoral Services of Pastor Sharon Fox Bogan with Zion Lutheran Church of Tigerton. (40 members-Yes)

Dan called for a show of hands all opposed to accepting the contract agreement for the Pastoral Services of Pastor Sharon Fox Bogan with Zion Lutheran Church of Tigerton. (0 members-No)

The contract agreement passed with a unanimous vote.

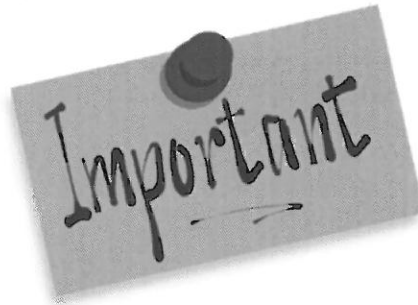
A motion was made by Karon Weisensel and seconded by Maribeth Netzler to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Deb Rieck
Council Secretary

Our Monetary Discipleship for December, 2019

Worship Date	Worship Attend	General Fund (Budget)	Building Fund (Non-Budget)	Sunday School Offering (Budget)	Other Income
12/8	54	\$ 3480		\$27.61	\$507.10 WELCA
12/15	73	\$ 3140	\$25	\$180	\$25 Missions \$60 Newsletter
12/22	43	\$ 2195			
12/24	133	\$ 2893			\$109 Missions \$60 Newsletter
Total	303	\$ 11,708	\$ 25	\$207.61	\$761.10

Offering envelopes are available in the wall rack near the main entrance door in the Gathering Space. Please use an envelope with your offering and **write your name and amount on the envelope** if you include cash. Using the envelopes insures you get credit for monies given to the church.



Please Note the following important dates:

January 5, 2020 – Worship time changes to 8:30 am. This time will remain for the months of January, February, March, and April.

January 5, 2020 - Sunday School and Confirmation time changes to 9:30 am.

January 15, 2020 – Items of inclusion in the annual report due to church office

January 19, 2020 – Budget Meeting following worship

January 26, 2020 – Congregational Annual Meeting following worship

January Worship Assistants

Date	Children's Time Reader	Usher	Reader	Communion Assistant	Acolyte
Sunday January 5		Jesse & Carla Hanke	Lois Anderson	Karon Weisensel	Izzi Smalfus-Clark
Sunday January 12		Dick & Ruthie Olsen	Ann Hawley	—————	Owen Hanke
Sunday January 19	Fay Rosenow	Sunday School	Fay Rosenow	Ann Hawley	Jenna Meisner
Sunday January 26		Dan & Karon Weisensel	Dan Weisensel	—————	Layla Horne

ALTAR GUILD:

January & February: Gail Koehler & Ruthie Olsen
 March & April: Dianne Long & Kari Zeinert
 May & June: Dave & Shirley Schmidt & Linda Evje
 July: Lois Anderson & Nancy Pehlke August: Miriam Nelson
 September: Peggy Hartleben & Peggy Emmel October: Deb Rieck
 November & December: Lori Hartleben & Fay Rosenow

The duties include set up and clean up of communion, changing the altar cloths (when needed) and watering the plants.

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Thank you to all the newsletter sponsors:

January, 2020 **Carleton & Jean Benz** – In honor of their 65th Wedding Anniversary and in memory of sons Larry and Brian
 Arletta Crowell – In memory of her husband, Elmer
 March, 2020 **June Norrbom** – In memory of Carl and Loren
 June, 2020 **Lee & JoAnn Innerebner**

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter for 2020, please make a check payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church for \$60.00 and write a note with your name and the month you would like to sponsor. Please include on the note in honor of or in memory of (if you wish).

This can be put in with the weekly offering or mailed to the church office.

The monthly sponsorship covers the cost of those newsletters being mailed, along with the monthly fee for our website. Thank you to all who sponsor the monthly newsletter!



Happy Birthday!

Mike Gilbertson	1-1
Peggy Hartleben	1-2
Roland Hendrikson	1-3
Callie Hirsch	1-3
Dee Gildseth	1-4
Shirley Hartleben	1-15
Sharon Backes	1-19
Derek Dombeck	1-20
Cody Hartleben	1-21
Alan Hanke	1-30
Jan Wormuth	1-31



Happy Anniversary!

Carleton & Jean Benz	1-1
----------------------	-----



Please leave the parking spaces near the entrance doors for those who need them. Thank you.

Thank You

Many thanks to Ann Schmidt for the help she gave us with the sale of our parsonage. She did not accept realtor fees, choosing to allow us the full amount for our sale.

Thank you, Annie!

JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 8:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am Sunday School & Confirmation	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School & Confirmation Church Council	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 8:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am Sunday School & Confirmation Budget Hearing	20 M L King Day	21	22	23	24	25
26 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School & Confirmation Annual Meeting	27	28	29	30	31	1