

# *Lampighter*

Randall Presbyterian Church ~ Randall, MN

September 2021

## Worship in September

Sunday, September 12, 10:00 a.m.

“Ministry of Reconciliation”

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

In this passage we are called to be Ambassadors for Christ, but how can we be ministers of reconciliation in today’s world?

*The Worship Service will be outdoors.*

*You may wish to bring your own chair.*

Sunday, September 19, 10:00 a.m.

“Confessions of a Bad Christian”

James:3:1-12

*We will return to James from a different perspective.*

*This service will be inside in the Sanctuary.*

Masks are recommended.

Sunday, September 25, 10:00 a.m.

“Our Father”

Matthew 6:5-15

We begin a four week study on the Lord’s Prayer.

*This service will be outdoors with Games and Picnic following the service.*

*See more about the fun and games on page 3.*

## *Message from Michael....*

About a dozen years ago, I wrote an article that asked the question, “What does it mean to be a church in a post-Christian world?” The question arose from an article in the Newsweek Magazine, “The End of Christian America.”

The article by Jon Meacham, a devout Episcopalian, cited a number of highly credible surveys and reports. These reports showed the membership decline in Christian churches, particularly mainline denominations. They also showed how the church has lost its influence in America culture. The article agreed with many Christian leaders and social philosophers who have concluded that we are entering a time when Christianity is not predominate world view.

A survey this past March showed that for the first time in American History less than half of the people in the United States claimed membership to a church, mosque, or synagogue. Add to that, some church experts are saying that up to 30% of members of congregations will not return to worship after the Covid pandemic.

So, what does it mean to live in a post-Christian, post pandemic world?

I think it means that denominations and churches are going to rethink how they will do ministry, and to make the most out of their resources. In our Presbytery, fewer churches are served by a full-time ordained pastor. More pastors are serving multiple churches, or churches are being served by trained lay leaders.

Some say that Christianity is more like the early church before it became the official religion of the Roman Empire. Back when Christians were a minority of the population.

However, I don't think this will be all bad for the church. I think we might even see a rebirth or even a resurrection of a new church in America; a church, whose membership nationally may be much smaller than the past, but whose members are more committed, dedicated, faithful and spiritual. I think this may be a great time for the church, but only if we are honest with our situations, and willing to examine who we are and what Christ is calling us to be and do.

What does it mean for Randall Presbyterian Church? I don't know for sure. It may mean re-examining what it means to be a church and asking how God wants to serve our community. Life might be different in a post-covid world, but it may bring new opportunities for our church.

*Michael*

Sunday, September 26th

It's not a Picnic. It's not a Potluck.

# IT'S A PICLUCK!

To celebrate the end of summer and to enjoy some much-needed fellowship while the weather is nice, we will be having a family game and *picluck* (picnic/potluck) after worship! Games and picluck will be held outdoors unless the weather does not cooperate, and moved indoors if it does not.

## **GAMES! PRIZES! FUN!**

There will be a fun variety of carnival and yard games for all ages graciously supplied by Sharon Ballou and Renee Hegg. Come test your skills and win a prize! Mary Skoog has kindly offered to donate prizes for the games. If you have any yard games you wish to share, please feel free to bring them.

## **BRATS! BUNS! BEANS!**

Please think picnic when planning what you would like to bring for the event. Michael Lashinski has volunteered to bring his grill. Hotdogs and brats will be provided for the picnic. Lets save our casseroles, soups, and crockpots for when we can continue indoor potlucks, and instead, consider bringing...

BUNS (HOTDOG AND BRAT)★CHIPS AND DIPS★BEANS★SUMMER SALADS★  
DESSERTS★CONDIMENTS★JUICE/LEMONADE/PUNCH (Beverage dispensers will be provided)★

## **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

We will need volunteers for both Saturday and Sunday!

SET UP TABLES AND TENTS ON SATURDAY★GAMES (SET UP AND/OR ASSIST WITH THE GAMES) ON SUNDAY★SET UP AND SERVE FOOD★CLEAN UP ON SUNDAY!

We really want to make this a fun event for all and hopefully we can turn this into an annual event. Please plan on attending, the more the merrier!! If anyone has other small items they would like to donate to the event, please feel free. Donations are welcome!

**CONTACT TERRY COFFIN IF YOU'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER**

**COME ONE, COME ALL**



# PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

*God is our refuge and strength  
therefore, we will not fear, though the waters roar and foam. — Psalm 46*

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is mobilized and already delivering immediate aid to those impacted by Hurricane Ida. The initial assessment of the damage is staggering. The needs of those impacted change daily due to lack of access to power, refrigeration, water and housing. This will be a long-term commitment to the people impacted by this catastrophic destruction.

PDA will continue to work with Presbyterian leadership to respond to Hurricane Ida and remain engaged in the recovery efforts during the hurricane season of 2021, during which several named storms are expected to impact the region. After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain — providing emotional and spiritual care and Long-Term Recovery to address unmet needs.

**GIVE:** Gifts can be [made online](#), by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check, which can be made payable and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

## **Food Shelf Volunteers Needed September 30**

Randall Presbyterian Church provides volunteers to help at the Food Shelf on the last Thursday of every month. Three or four volunteers are needed and anyone of age can help. See Terry Coffin or Geri McLennan for more information.

## **Thursday Bible Study 9:30 a.m. at the Perkins an Little Falls**

Come join us at the Little Falls Perkins for a late breakfast, early lunch, just coffee, or come just for the study and fellowship. We are beginning a new study on the Book of Ruth using the book, "The Girl's Still Got it", by Liz Curtis Higgs. The study is lead by Nancy Skoog.

## **Readers Needed to Help with Worship**

Each week readers are needed for both the online worship service and the in-person worship service. Readings are pre-recorded for the online service and done live on Sunday mornings. Volunteers can signup to read at both or just one of the services and families are encouraged to participate. Volunteers can signup at the church or [here](#).

## **September Birthdays**

Jim Skoog	9/8
Jennifer Lashinski	9/11
Liam Waldoch	9/13
Gary Gannon	9/21
Darrell Hegg	9/21
Tori Clark	9/23
Bransten Selinski	9/27
Jordan Lashinski	9/29

*May God Bless Each of You &  
May You Have a Happy Birthday*

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**RANDALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**MINUTES OF SESSION – June 16, 2021**

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**Members present:** Terry Coffin, Christi Hartwell, Marlys Olson and Moderator Reverend Michael Hartwell.

**Members excused:** Jake Farrow, Michael Lashinski, Chris Magee. **Members absent:** None.

**Others present:** None.

The regular meeting of the Session was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the basement of the Randall Presbyterian Church by Moderator Reverend Michael Hartwell, who opened the meeting with prayer. A quick check in was also done to see how everyone was doing and any prayer concern updates.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the May 19, 2021 Session Meeting minutes was made by Marlys Olson, seconded by Christi Hartwell. Motion carried.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report:** Summary of the May 2021 Balance Sheet - Current Total Assets: \$166,450.20 (Checking: \$10,632.74, Savings: \$155,817.46). Motion to approve the May 2021 Treasurer reports was made by Christi Hartwell, seconded by Marlys Olson. Motion carried.

**Reports:**

- **Pastor's Report:** Monday, May 24, Faith Not Fear, Zoom Meeting; Thursday, May 27, Morrison County Food Shelf; Monday, May 31, Memorial Day Service at Randall VFW and played Taps at 3 cemeteries; Tuesday, June 1, Congregational Singing Webinar; Wednesday, June 2, CCLI Copyright Webinar; Thursday, June 3; Servant Keeper/Faithlife Webinar; Monday, June 7, Pastor's Cohort Zoom Meeting; Tuesday, June 8, Randall Business Group; June 8, Both/And Hybrid Worship Webinar; June 8, Academy Zoom Meeting; Monday, June 14, Pastor's Cohort Zoom Meeting; June 14, Crosslake Session meeting
- **Church Rolls and Register Report:** Session received a request for baptism of Chase Vetsch, son of Lynelle and Kevin Vetsch (non-members) for July 18. Motion to approve the baptism was made by Marlys Olson, seconded by Christi Hartwell. Motion carried.
- **Worship/Membership/Mission Report:** Outdoor in-person worship continues, weather permitting, with an average of 34 attending. COVID-19 protocols have been relaxed for those fully vaccinated and for outdoor activities. Online worship will continue.  
25 communions served on June 6, 2021  
69 members; no change.  
Monthly church mission is the Morrison County Food Shelf and the weekly church mission is Meals on Wheels.
- **Fellowship:** Morrison County Food Shelf on May 27, 2021 with four members from church volunteering.
- **Christian Education Report:** Session discussed whether we should try to have Vacation Bible Study (VBS) this summer. It was decided that due to late timing issues and some limited COVID restrictions still in place, it would be best to wait until Summer of 2022. Motion was made by Christi Hartwell, seconded by Marlys Olson to postpone VBS until 2022. Motion carried.
- **Building/Maintenance Report:** Nothing to report.
- **Presbytery:** Nothing to report.
- **Correspondence:** Received a letter from the Morrison County Sheriff's Department requesting donations for continued support for their child safety and drug prevention program for youth. Motion was made by Marlys Olson, seconded by Christi Hartwell to donate \$100.00 from the Session designated fund to this program. Motion carried.
- **Deacon's Report:** Nothing to report.
  - Motion to approve the committee reports as received was made by Christi Hartwell, seconded by Marlys Olson. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

- a. Officer training – pended until COVID-19 restrictions have been fully lifted and it is safer to gather.
- b. Morrison County Food Shelf – only three volunteers are needed at this time until restrictions are lifted. June 24, 2021 will be our next night for volunteering. Everyone is invited to volunteer at the Food Shelf. Please contact Geri McLennan or Terry Coffin if you are interested.

- c. Church garden – The gardens were installed on Sunday, June 13, 2021. Cathy Adamek, Cathy Gannon and Gary Gannon planted the raised bed gardens. The plants were donated by Cathy Adamek and we want to give her a big “thank you!” for her donation along with the Gannon’s for their help in the planting. Current balance of funds raised is \$1912.00.

**New Business:**

- a. COVID-19/Post COVID:
- Pastor Michael watched a webinar which recommended limiting indoor congregational singing. Session is suggesting to keep masks for indoors as recommended not required.
  - Session discussed serving refreshments each Sunday after outdoor worship to promote more fellowship and to work with deacons for when we move back indoors.
  - Prior to resuming potlucks indoors, the kitchen and refrigerators will need to be thoroughly cleaned. We will be looking for volunteers for the job.
  - Session will discuss consideration of resuming potlucks at the time we move worship back indoors this fall or winter,
  - The wall fans in the sanctuary will need to be re-installed. We will need two or three people to assist with the installation.
- b. Pastor Michael, Marlys Olson and Terry Coffin participated in a three-hour webinar sponsored by Faithlife. Faithlife is an integrated desktop/cloud software package that includes the church’s website, presentation software, Bible Study program for pastors and church members, and other tools including ServantKeeper. ServantKeeper is a Church Management software database for managing membership information including tracking contributions and donations. Currently, the membership database is on the pastor’s computer and contributions are on Marlys’ computer, and only they can access the data. The software package provides tools to assist Pastors with sermon, worship, and Bible Study preparation, as well as other tools. Members will have the ability to access bible studies and other bible applications also. The cost of the FaithLife/ServantKeeper programs is \$1,210.00 for a year. Minnesota Valleys Presbytery approved a technology grant of \$600.00 to reduce the cost of the program and Pastor Michael has contributed part of his expense budget towards the cost. The final cost to the church is \$410.00. After lengthy discussion by session, a motion was made by Christi Hartwell, seconded by Marlys Olson to approve going forward with this program for one year. Motion carried.
- c. Dan Thilquist has offered to sand and stain the back door.
- d. July 4<sup>th</sup> activities in Randall will be held on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. followed by prayers for the people and the Lord’s Prayer led by Reverend Michael Hartwell.

**Next Meeting date and time:** No scheduled meeting in July.

Respectfully submitted by,



Terry L. Coffin  
Clerk of Session