

Lamplighter

Randall Presbyterian Church ~ Randall, MN

February 2022

Message from Michael

When Christi and I decided to move to rural Minnesota a few years ago, we understood there would be major changes in our lives.

Foremost in our minds was the weather. It was a negative nine degrees this morning as I arrived at the church building. For three of the four Sundays this January, the temperature was fifteen below or lower.

I think this is good time to mention that in two days we are traveling to Phoenix, where the temperature will be in the mid 70's. Don't worry, we are coming back. In spite of the sub-zero temperature being hard to take, we have loved the weather in Minnesota, including the snow. We especially like the cool falls and the warm springs. Throughout the year, the colors are amazing.

We also knew the life in the rural Midwest would be different than what we were familiar with. Some of it was anticipated. We expected people to be friendlier and knew that people are far more connected with each other than in big cities. Extended families are more important, and cousins grow up together.

It does surprise me when someone my age still has friends from high school. Or to hear a retired teacher talk about someone they have known since they were a student sixty years ago.

The one thing that has completely astonished me though is the length that friends and neighbors go to help another.

A good example is the upcoming benefit for Chris Magee. As you know, Chris is a life long member of the community, and of Randall Presbyterian Church. As you also know, last spring Chris was diagnosed with bone cancer and is currently at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

The love and care that is expressed by the people of the benefit planning committee, and their ambition to do what ever they can to help the Magee family, is almost beyond my comprehension. I am glad to say our church is well represented in that group.

The benefit is on February 19, will be held at the Randal VFW from 2:00 to 7:00. Individuals, organizations, and business have contributed thousands of dollars worth of donations. There will be raffles, food, entertainment, a silent auction as well as a live auction. I hope you will be there.

The most amazing thing I have learned is that these types of benefits are not uncommon. It is just what people do for a friend in need.

It is good to see the teachings of Jesus being lived out here in Morrison County.

Michael

Baked Goods Needed

There will be a bake sale at the Magee benefit, and baked goods are needed. Items should be delivered to the Randall VFW before noon on February 19.

Perkins Bible Study

Thursday Mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Bring your bible and join us at the Little Falls Perkins for a late breakfast, early lunch, just coffee, or come just for the study and fellowship. The study is lead by Nancy Skoog.

Food Shelf

February 24, 4:30

Have you experienced the Food Shelf? It is a wonderful opportunity to serve God by serving the community. There are only three or four spots open for Randall's turn to serve, so talk to Terry soon to reserve your spot!

The 2021 Per Capita is \$43.00

From the Presbytery's weekly email newsletter.

Per Capita is something that is often misunderstood in the church. I have heard it referred to as a tax or as dues. It is not either. It is the way that each person and each congregation participates in the work of the greater church. All Presbyterians are called to take part in the ecclesiastical and administrative work shared by the whole church. Through this contribution, all of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils connect to share in the costs.

*Kathy Terpstra
Gap Executive Presbyter*

Randall Presbyterian Church will pay the \$43.00 for each member of the congregation. The Session is asking every member to make an additional donation of \$43.00 to help the church cover it's commitment.

January Birthdays

Todd Helmerick	Feb 1
Howard Kazeck	Feb 2
Allen Lashinski	Feb 2
Chase Vetsch	Feb 10
Ken Ballou	Feb 17
Mary Skoog	Feb 18
Jeff Turner	Feb 19
Briel Selinski	Feb 21

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

February Worship Series

The Prophet Elijah

Elijah is one of the greatest prophets in the Old Testament, and his ministry is one of the most fascinating in the Bible. We will hear his stories during the month of February. Take some time, and read the chapters where we learn about the prophets life and ministry. His call begins in 1 Kings chapter 17. In the second chapter of 2 Kings, as Elijah is walking with his successor Elisha, a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.

February 6, 1 Kings 17:1-16
February 13, 1 Kings 18:20-39
February 20, 1 Kings 19:1-15
February 27, 2 Kings 2:1-15

Ash Wednesday Service

March 2, 2022, 6:30

The Season of Lent is time of self-examination and reflection as we prepare for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 2.

*By the sweat of your face you
shall eat bread until you return to
the ground, for out of it you were
taken; you are dust, and to dust
you shall return.
(Genesis 3:19 NRSV)*

RANDALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MINUTES OF SESSION – November 17, 2021

Members present: Terry Coffin, Jake Farrow, Christi Hartwell, Michael Lashinski, Marlys Olson and Moderator Reverend Michael Hartwell. **Members excused:** 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 quorum was declared as is shown by those in attendance. A quick check in was also done to see how everyone was doing and if there were any prayer concern updates.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the October 20, 2021 Session Meeting minutes was made by Jake Farrow, seconded by Michael Lashinski. Motion carried.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Summary of the October 2021 Balance Sheet – Current Total Assets: \$162,239.59 (Checking: \$5,669.80, Savings: \$156,569.79). Motion to approve the September Treasurer reports was made by Marlys Olson, seconded by Christi Hartwell. Motion carried.

Reports:

- **Pastor's Report:** Perkins Bible Study, Thursday, October 21; Presbytery Transformation Commission Zoom meeting, Thursday, October 21; Pastor Cohort Zoom meeting, Monday, October 25; Faith Not Fear Community Group Zoom Meeting, Wednesday, October 26; Perkins Bible Study, Thursday, October 28; Food Shelf, Thursday, October 28; Pastor Cohort Zoom Meeting, Monday, November 1; Presbytery Inventive Ministries Zoom meeting, Tuesday, November 2; Pastor Cohort Group Meeting in Wilmar, Monday, November 8; Crosslake Session Meeting, Crosslake, Tuesday, November 9; "The New Normal: Hybrid Worship" Webinar, Tuesday, November 9; "Supporting Hybrid Ministries" Webinar, Wednesday, November 10; Little Falls Area Ministerial Association, Little Falls, Thursday, November 11; Perkins Bible Study, Thursday, November 11; Installation Service, Hope Presbyterian Church, Spicer Sunday, November 14; Pastor Cohort Zoom meeting, Monday, November 15
Sick Days; November 3-5
Completed my term on Presbytery's Transformation and Development Commission. Will begin serving on the Commission on Leadership in 2022.
- **Church Rolls and Register Report:** Nothing to report.
- **Worship/Membership/Mission Report:** Worship has moved indoors with an average of 35 attending and is being live-streamed. The service is streamed live at 10:00 a.m. along with being recorded for viewing at a later time either on YouTube or the church's webpage and Facebook. Masks continue to be recommended but not required.
33 communions were served on November 7, 2021
68 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 October 28, 2021 with four members from church volunteering. Thank you to Warren and Yvonne Johnson for bringing the ice cream and cake to the Little Falls Care Center for the November birthdays.
- **Christian Education Report:** Children have learned the Lord's Prayer in Sunday School. Practice will begin for the Christmas children's program on December 19.
- **Building/Maintenance Report:** Salt was purchased for the front walk by Michael Lashinski and a sound bar has been donated for the Sanctuary.
- **Presbytery:** Presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 6 at First Presbyterian Church in St. James. Nancy Skoog attended the meeting. The retirements of two pastors were honored and a new pastor to Silver Lake was welcomed. Changes were made to some of the commissions with the addition or subtraction of commissioners. Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to commissions who have completed their term of service. For 2022, the Presbytery will be trying some different meetings – there will be two in-person meetings and four zoom meetings. The 2022 budget was approved. There was discussion regarding the Triennium that will be held on July 23 -July 28, 2022. Nancy Skoog was installed as Moderator and Leanne Thompson was installed as Vice-Moderator for 2022.

Terry Coffin attended the Record Review and training at the Presbytery on October 23, 2021. Training was also provided for financial and personnel people. The 2019 – 2021 Session records for Randall Presbyterian Church were approved without exception.

- **Correspondence:** Received letters from Church Mutual and the Per Capita Apportionment from the Presbytery.
- **Deacon's Report:** Nothing to report.
 - Motion to approve the committee reports as received was made by Michael Lashinski, seconded by Jake Farrow. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- a. Officer training – Tentative dates to be considered are January 7 & 8 or 14 & 15
- b. Morrison County Food Shelf – December 30, 2021 will be our next night for volunteering. Everyone is invited to volunteer at the Food Shelf. The hours to work are 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please contact Geri McLennan or Terry Coffin if you are interested.
- c. Nominating Committee reported there are two Deacon candidates and one Elder to be elected for 2022. Session discussed leaving the number of elders at six; motion was made by Jake Farrow, seconded by Marlys Olson to approve continuation of six elders for 2022. Motion carried. Those members nominated are: Deacons: Ken Ballou and Renee Hegg; Elder: Warren Johnson.
- d. Additional technology and upgrading of cameras will be needed for the hybrid worship. Pastor Michael discussed submitting a technology grant request to assist with the funding of these expenses in 2022.

New Business:

- a. Presbyteries are now meeting on Wednesdays – information only.
- b. Christmas Eve service will be held at 5:00 p.m. on December 24.
- c. Session reviewed the Pastor's salary and compensation to present to the budget committee. The only change to his compensation will be an increase in funding his FSA to the 2022 maximum of \$2,850.00.
- d. Budget review date is to be determined.
- e. Annual meeting date will be January 30, 2022.
- f. Several Christmas events are planned:
 - Hartwell's Open House on December 5th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Movie night on December 11th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Caroling on December 19th at 5:00 p.m., refreshments at Sharon Ballou's afterward
 - A four-week Advent Study with multiple churches begins on December 1st at 6:30 p.m.
- g. Winter items are needed for the church: ice melt, new shovel and snow stakes to mark the driveways.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marlys Olson, seconded by Michael Lashinski. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. followed by prayers for the people and the Lord's Prayer led by Reverend Michael Hartwell.

Next Meeting date and time: no meeting scheduled for December

Respectfully submitted by,



Terry L. Coffin
Clerk of Session