

Lamplighter

Randall Presbyterian Church ~ Randall, MN

September 2022

Special Sundays in September *(All in the Sanctuary!)*

Sunday, September 11

Richard Lawrence returns to Randall

Richard has preached many times at Randall Presbyterian Church, and he will once again be leading worship on Sunday, September 11. He is bringing his guitar and will even let Michael play along with him.

Sunday, September 18

The Sermon on the Mount

Instead of a traditional sermon, the congregation will hear Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Read the Message from Michael on the next page for more information.

Sunday, September 25

Thank You Jackie & Harriet

Harriet and Jackie have been sharing their gift for music and their love for God at Randall Presbyterian Church for parts of eight decades. The congregation will take a few minutes to thank them for their service during worship.

**Services will be live streamed
beginning September 11**

**Sunday School Classes for Adults and Youth
Will begin Sunday, October 2**

Message from Michael

Come Hear the Greatest Sermon ever Preached

September 18, 10:00 a.m.

I can say that with confidence, because it isn't one of my sermons. As a matter of fact, the sermon is almost 2000 years old, and was given by Jesus himself.

The Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5-7

Every couple of years I recite the Sermon on the Mount for worship. I have been doing this for almost 20 years. I do this for a number of reasons.

These three chapters of Matthew were meant to be heard as an entire unit. There is so much meaningful information in this text, and it is important that we look at each passage carefully. But too often we forget that this is single unit, and occasionally we should hear in its entirety. Remember, the Sermon on the Mount was meant to be heard, and sometimes we hear things differently than when we read them.

But I must admit, the main reason I do it is for my own personal, spiritual development. In other words, I use it as a Spiritual Discipline.

We don't speak enough about Spiritual Disciplines. Spiritual Disciplines can be simply defined as a habit or regular pattern in your life that repeatedly brings you back to God, and opens you up to what God is saying to you. Meditation, solitude, fasting, tithing, walking a labyrinth, praying the Psalms or other scripture, are all examples of possible disciplines. Most people can even find ways to practice a spiritual discipline in their own workplace.

For me, memorizing and reciting the Sermon on the Mount is a great Spiritual Discipline. Every year as I re-memorize the text I am amazed at how I see, read or hear something just a little differently.

Sometimes it is an insight I never noticed before. Other times I believe it is God speaking to me using the same words, but in a new and fresh way.

Memorization is actually becoming a lost art in today's world. In ancient times, people would memorize large quantities of information. When the printing press made books available to the larger population, there was less of a need to memorize. With information literally at our fingertips, there is even less and less memorization required of people.

I believe we've lost something as a result. Whether it is the words of scripture, or the thoughts of the poet, there is beauty in the spoken — not read — word.

So I will continue my Spiritual Discipline of memorizing and reciting the Sermon on the Mount. I hope you will put up with me. I may even work at memorizing other scripture as well.

If you would like more information on spiritual formation or disciplines, I encourage you to read Richard Fosters' *Celebration of Discipline*, Craig Barnes' *Sacred Thirst*, or any writings from the ancient mystics. I would be glad to loan you my copies.

Michael



Thanks to Everyone Who Made the Family Vacation Bible School A Great Success!

Over fifty people joined the fun on August 28. As well as the food and games, the families learned about Habitat for Humanity and how their work exhibits the teaching of Jesus.



*The tug-of-war
was a big hit
with everyone!*



*Youth assembled
and decorated
bird feeders.*

*'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these
who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:40 NRSV)*

About Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County:

Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope. Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.



Kathy Lange
Executive
Director



Food Shelf

September 29, 4:30 p.m.

It is Randall Presbyterian Church's turn to serve at Food Shelf. This is a wonderful way to serve the community. Talk to Terry Coffin or Geri McLennan if you'd like to help.

Worship Assistants

Needed!

(Give Terry and Christi a Break)

Worship Assistants provide a valuable service to the church and the weekly worship. Any age, member or not, is encouraged to participate. Volunteers can signup at the church or online.

Congratulation

To Meghan Ballou
And Austin Koep
On the birth of their son



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.

August Birthdays

Lanie Brott	Sep 3
Ethan Brott	Sep 5
Jim Skoog	Sep 8
Jennifer Lashinski	Sep 11
Liam Waldoch	Sep 13
Gary Gannon	Sep 21
Darrell Hegg	Sep 21
Tori Clark	Sep 23
Bransten Selinski	Sep 27
Jordan Lashinski	Sep 29

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

In Memory

Benjamin R Wester
"Ben"

Ben passed away on August 14. Services were held at the church on August 20. "Simply put, to know Ben was to love Ben! He will be greatly missed by everyone. For those privileged to have known Ben, he

made us
better
people."

*Please keep
Sara and
JT in your
prayers.*



RANDALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINUTES OF SESSION – August 17, 2022

Members present: Terry Coffin, Jake Farrow, Sue Fenske, Christi Hartwell, Chris Magee, Marlys Olson and Moderator Reverend Michael Hartwell. **Members excused:** None. **Members absent:** None. **Others present:** None.

The regular meeting of the Session was called to order at 6:35 p.m. in the basement of 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: The July 20, 2022 Session Meeting minutes were previously sent out by email to session for their review. Session approved the minutes as written; the minutes were included in the August Lamplighter newsletter.

Approval of Treasurer's Report:

Summary of the July 2022 Balance Sheet – Current Total Assets: \$133,273.77 (Checking: -\$1,509.60, Savings: \$131,764.17).

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$8,962.11	\$54,691.27
Expense:	\$8,858.22	\$65,402.91
Net Income:	\$ 103.89	-\$10,711.64

Pastor Michael shared a document "Financial Internal Control" from the Synod School Academy class. Session discussed the information concerning steps to take in reducing financial risk for the church. Further discussion regarding this to be continued. Motion to receive the Treasurer reports as discussed was made by Christi Hartwell, seconded by Chris Magee. Motion carried.

Reports:

- **Pastor's Report:** Perkins Bible Study, Thursday, July 21; Presbytery Zoom Book Study, July 21; Synod School (The Academy) July 24-29; Pastor Cohort Zoom Meeting, Monday, August 1; Presbytery Inventive Ministries Meeting, Wilmar, Tuesday, August 2; Randall Flood Recovery Grant Meeting, Randall, August 2; Presbytery Commission of Leadership Zoom Meeting, Thursday, August 4; Presbytery Zoom Book Study, August 4; Pastor Cohort Zoom Meeting, Monday, August 8; Perkins Bible Study, Thursday, August 11; Pastor Cohort Zoom Meeting, Monday, August 15; Presbytery Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, August 16

Continuing Education:

Pastor's Retreat, September 18-22 **Dates were reported incorrectly in prior reports.** (No Sunday Involved)

The Academy, October 28-30 (Includes Sunday, October 30)

- **Church Rolls and Register Report:** Ben Wester passed away on Sunday, August 14, 2022. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, August 20, 2022, at the Randall Presbyterian Church in Randall, MN with Rev. Michael Hartwell officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the church.
- **Worship/Membership/Mission Report:** Currently the average weekly attendance is 38. Outdoor worship continues, weather permitting, to the end of August. Worship will not be live-streamed or recorded during the summer but will resume on September 11th.

Session discussed whether to continue with the recorded music or to consider looking for a piano player. It was decided to continue with the recorded music for now.

A recognition service in honor of Jackie Magee and Harriet Turner is tentatively planned for September 25th during worship; potluck to follow the service. They have shared their gift of music with our church for many years.

38 were served Communion on August 7, 2022.

70 members; death of Ben Wester on August 14, 2022.

Monthly church mission is the Morrison County Food Shelf and the weekly church mission is Meals on Wheels.

- **Fellowship:** Morrison County Food Shelf on July 28^h with three members from church volunteering.
- **Christian Education Report:** Ideas for the Family Vacation Bible School (VBS) on August 27th and the Picnic on August 28th have been shared by many and plans are being completed. Someone from Habitat for

Humanity will be at the Family VBS to share information about the organization. The theme from VBS will carry over to worship on Sunday the 28th.

Fall Sunday School will be starting soon and teachers are needed. Michael and Jennifer Lashinski will be contacted to see if they would like to teach again this fall. Ideas are also being considered for an Adult Bible Study.

- **Building/Maintenance Report:** Dan Thilquist and Jim Skoog recommend the current gutters be replaced with larger sized gutters to handle water runoff; gutters should also be installed in the areas currently without them. The local lumber company provided them with a bid on the materials. Motion was made by Marlys Olson, seconded by Terry Coffin to install larger gutters as recommended. Motion carried.
- **Presbytery:** July 24 – July 29th Pastor Michael, Christi Hartwell and Terry Coffin attended Synod School in Storm Lake, IA. The Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys held a meeting via zoom from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 16th. Highlights of the meeting included a devotion led by Kathy Riley with the Presbyterian Disaster Association regarding fatigue and burnout. Items from the 2022 General Assembly were discussed and will likely be voted on at the February 2023 meeting. Kali Luther, the new Presbytery Youth Director was introduced and discussed her new role. If you are interested in volunteering to be on one of the Presbytery Committees or Commissions, please let Pastor Michael know. Also, the 2023 Pastor Compensation Policy was approved. Sessions need to keep the inflation rate and cost of living rate in mind when reviewing salaries.
- **Correspondence:** Thank you notes were received from Dr. S. G. Knight (Coins for a Cause) and Morrison County Food Shelf for our donations.
- **Deacon's Report:** nothing to report.
 - Motion to approve the committee reports as received was made by Chris Magee, seconded by Marlys Olson. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- a. Morrison County Food Shelf – August 25, 2022 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 Pastor Michael or Terry Coffin if you are interested. We need volunteers!!
- b. ServantKeeper – the monthly fee will be \$50.00 starting in September. The Online Directory through ServantKeeper will be made available to members in the future. A password will be provided and members can add a photo of their choice along with edit their member information.
- c. For those interested in church T-Shirts, another order will be placed in the future. Please let us know if you are interested.

New Business:

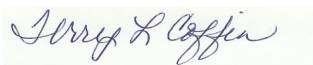
- a. Please note: there will not be a session meeting in September.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chris Magee, seconded by Marlys Olson. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. followed by prayers for the people and the Lord's Prayer led by Reverend Michael Hartwell.

Next Meeting date and time: October 5, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Respectfully submitted by,



Terry L. Coffin
Clerk of Session