

Trinity



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The Shrinking Church

Numbers are shrinking in the Church today, or so we are told by those in the know. Of course, I don't have any way of verifying this information, so I guess we'll just have trust the experts who claim to have a knowledge such thing. But if this so, and from what I've seen here and in other places I have no reason to believe anything to the contrary, then it begs the question: Why this is happening?

Oh, there are so many, many answers, aren't there? It's not me, it's you. It's not you, it's me. And astonishingly there are some who are proud of low numbers in their parishes because they believe that it validates the faithfulness of their ministry (which might indeed be true). Then there are those who are disturbed by these dwindling numbers and blame the Church, her message, and/or her methods. In some circles it's become almost a merry-go-round of frantic "the sky is falling" chicken littles all pointing fingers at everyone but themselves.

But why is membership declining, really? That is, after all, what each of us want to know, isn't it? Well, since many Churches have been doing "cool" worship for decades and attendance is still declining overall, I don't think you can blame worship style for the low numbers. After all, Churches invented

youth ministry.

Let's face it. There have been no new arguments offered to defeat the message of the Gospel or its reliability. There have been no new discoveries which have disproved the historical claims of Christianity or the accuracy of the Holy Scriptures. Though many

have been looking for Jesus' bones, they still haven't been found! The tomb is still empty! Christ has risen just as He said! And you can say that with as much scientific and historical certainty as ever. No one has ever been able to prove that our confession of the Christian faith in the Creeds of the Church is untrue.

So what's the deal? What has changed.

Why is Church attendance shrinking? If you want my opinion, I think it's due to happiness. And what I mean by that is that people today seem to be quite happy **without** the Church in their lives.

Now while many might mock the Middle Ages, and especially the corruption of the Church in that age, it does, in fact, appear that



"youth ministry" a long time ago to try and reach our youth, yet their numbers are still declining too. So that can't be the problem. To be sure, there are some who might even try to make the argument that youth ministry is the problem, since it appears that the decrease in Church membership seems to coincide with the rise of

they were doing something right. Their minds were set on eternal things, not temporal – on God and His relationship with man – and how we fit into the eternal scheme of things. The people of that day seem to have set higher goals for themselves than we do today – the goal of living forever, even if it meant living uncomfortably for a little while here in this world. They lived in the reality that death was visibly all around them. They knew they were going to die one day, so what really mattered to them was what God thought of them. They were under no illusions that they were going to live forever.

And then, the Enlightenment was born. People began to believe erroneously that they could change the world, make it a far better place, and eventually know everything mankind needed to know. This is still the overarching mindset and worldview of most people living in our world today – sadly, even within the walls of the Church.

Although no one would say this out loud, it does seem that today we have embraced the illusion that suffering and death will one day be conquered. Seriously? Has anyone noticed that the percentage of people dying hasn't changed one iota since people thought drinking mercury and putting leaches on people's backs was a good idea? Just think about that! **Nothing has changed!** And yet because we are able to spend the death sentence of our life much more leisurely today than we could have in days gone by, most people literally seem to have forgotten that death and pain is but a moment away.

In the year 2015 it appears that the goal of most Americans is that they be able to live comfortable, happy lives. Surely, that's what God wants for us right? I have this sneaking suspicion that in the back of most peoples' minds they are holding out hope that the people who gave



iPhone will give next us iLife! I would like to suggest that a great many Christians seem to have more hope and faith in modern technology – which has proved absolutely nothing – rather than in God.

And sadly, the Church also seems to have bought into this fantasy. Indeed, the Church has unwittingly supported it. How many pastors ever talk about the virtue of suffering in our lives, let alone the virtue of submission to God even as slaves submit to their masters. Most pastors, I suspect (at least all the ones I know) have an expectation that they ought to be able enjoy at least as comfortable a life as their parishioners. Our fat selves have gotten quite used to it. Though we should know better, we too are outraged when pain and suffering interferes with our happiness. God, do something! We tell

people that God wants to heal them, that it's great that so and so lived to the age of 92, but it's sad that little Jimmy got hit by a car. We tell people, "I'm sure it will get better. Hey there are new cures for cancer every day."

We have created a culture that demands that we be happy at Church and in life – that we be happy with the worship service: whether it's contemporary or traditional – that we be happy with the preaching – that we be happy with the pastor's visits. After all, you have a right to be happy, because the Church exists to make us all happy, and you're part of the Church.

But here's the rub. People today have come to the realization that they can be

happy without going to a Church service or being a member of a church. And they can! So then, it appears that the duty of the pastor is to smash our dreams, pour boiling tar on our illusions, and throw rocks at our glass houses. Part of their job is to make people unhappy!

The truth of the matter, you see, is that the Emperor has no clothes! People are actually lying when they say they are happy. They are not. They aren't happy as they live a life contrary to nature and God's laws. They aren't happy even though they call their funerals "celebrations of life." They go to bed scared, insecure, and empty. They are like that recent young lady who moved to Oregon so she could commit suicide. Why? Because it would make her happy! But what would make her happier? A cure!

And the Church has it – the Cure, that is. Jesus Christ. He is risen.

And He didn't need any help from Pfizer or John Hopkins who have lost every single patient they ever tried to help. I'm just asking you to think about it – hard.

Birthdays

Joni Martinez	11/1
Bruce Cantwell	11/1
Daniel Goodroad	11/2
Nelson Hayes	11/10
Regan Schmidt	11/10
Anthony Propst	11/15
Tiffany Propst	11/15
Sarian Blunk	11/15
Julie O'Neal	11/16
Jamie Luppess	11/19



Aaron Propst	11/21
Alpha Wiese	11/22
Andy Starkebaum	11/22
Pat Owens	11/24
Matthew Cuba	11/26
Lois Edmiston	11/28
Kris Wornson	11/28
Sullivan Korondi	11/28
Katelyn Brammeier	11/29
Ken Meier	12/1
Mallory Swain	12/1
Sylvia Herrell	12/4
Mary Ellett	12/5
Helen Buchlinger	12/8
Gretchen Mayes	12/8

Baptisms

Allyson Abend	11/2
Tara Altis	11/12

Daniel Goodroad	11/13
Sydney Strack	11/14



Tim Brammeier	11/17
Jeff Lehning	11/23
Nelson Hayes	11/24
Andrew Swain	11/24
Cindy Williams	11/25
Harry Akiyama	11/26
Scott Mayes	11/30
Tom Clemens	12/1
Keith Wornson	12/5
Diane Schmidt	12/6
Bill Moore	12/9
Anthony Propst	12/10

Anniversaries

Mike & Pat Owens
11/1/1974

Allen & Bonnie Harris
11/6/2004

Steve & Marcea Harms
11/9/1968

Alan & Debra Rhea
11/21/1980

Jim & Karen Hargrave
11/21/1991

Elders

Vic Edwards
Larry Goodroad
Ken Meier
Dallas Hoffman
Peter Korondi
Bill Moore, Jr.

Acolytes

Nov. 1	Tom Goodroad
Nov. 8	Sammy Harms
Nov. 15	Colton Harris
Nov. 22	Conner Jackson
Nov. 25	Simon Korondi
Nov. 29	Eli Ramer

Ushers

November 1

Bill Moore, Andy Starkebaum

November 8

Jack Oldag, Andy Starkebaum

November 15 & 22

Wayne Suter, Fred Walworth

November 29

Keith Wornson, Don Jaeger

December 2

Bob Marchert, Rob Stone

December 6

Keith Wornson, Bob Marchert

December 9 & 16

Tim Brammeier, John Diaz

December 13

John Barth, Don Mayes

December 20 & 24

Darrin Abend, Tony Alshouse

December 25

John Barth, Mark Young

December 27

Rob Stone, Mark Young

Greeters

November 1

Max & Judy Goodwin

November 8

Jim & Karen Hargrave

November 15

Steve & Marcea Harms

November 22

Allen & Bonnie Harris

November 25

Rob & Ardyth Stone

November 29

Curt & Char Henke

December 2

Nelson Hayes, Penny Harris

December 6

Dallas & Dee Hoffman

December 9

Sylvia Herrell, Martha Jenkins

December 13

Bob & Marlo Howard

December 16*Mike & Colleen Jackson***December 20***John & Jamie Lupp***December 24***June Lueckert, Doris Mann***December 25***Jeff & Joyce Lehning***December 27***Pete & Deanna Korondi*

Altar Guild

November 1*Pat Owens, Mary Ellett***November 8 & November 25***Deanna Korondi, Kari Goodroad***November 15***Dee Hoffman, Mallory Swain***November 22***June Ramer, Leslie Young***November 29***Phyllis Clemens, Tara Altis*

Flowers

November 29*Mallory Swain's Birthday*

Stewardship Thought

When you go to see the doctor, don't you expect his office to be clean and orderly, and that the doctor will give you his very best advice on how your healthcare needs can best be met?

Well, shouldn't this also be the expectation you have when you come to the Church?

Shouldn't you expect to find a well-maintained facility

where God's Word and gifts are distributed faithfully to feed your soul with everything needful to sustain you, body and soul, unto eternal life?

Every month when the Church Board meets, those who serve you by their service as Board members, try to be faithful in their stewardship and oversight of the ministry of this congregation. And while we know we have a faithful preacher who strives to proclaim God's Word in its truth and purity, the upkeep and maintenance of our Church property is something that is always a concern and a topic for discussion. One of the things that's emerged as a result of this consideration is the "Donut Hole Gang" which now meets once a week to try and address some of these issues.

But on a more general level just think about what you expect when you come to Church on Sunday morning or at other times during the week. Don't you expect the lights to be on, the water to be running, the temperature a comfortable level, the building to be clean, and the salaries of those who serve us paid so they can do their work without worrying about how they're going to pay their bills?

There always seems to be enough money to pay for extra projects here and there (take the recent successful elevator project and stair lift projects), but it always seems that we're running behind on our general budget, as if that wasn't nearly as important as the special projects we undertake. Remember, this Church

belongs to each one of us, and together we are each individually responsible not only for the flashier projects but also for the mundane, day to day expenses of maintaining our facility and paying those who

serve us. Thank you for remembering this need and for the response of faith which makes it possible for this ministry to continue.

Nelson Hayes,
Stewardship Director

Preus Family Newsletter

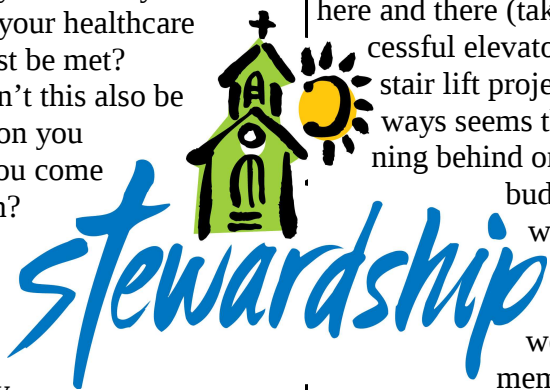
The following letter is from Pastor David Preus and family who are serving the Lord and His Church in the Dominican Republic. You may remember that Pastor Preus visited our congregation a few months back and shared with us some of the exciting things going on in the Dominican Republic Mission Field. What follows is an excerpt from his latest Newsletter:

The Word of God Endures Forever! There is a certain optimism that comes with trusting God's



Word, and not the world. The world is one big pessimist. Everything it promises passes away within a short time. But we don't invest there. Why heap up treasures that moth and rust destroy (Matthew 6:19-20)? We are heirs of a heavenly treasure. That's why we're bold to invest our present things in God's kingdom.

When it comes down to it, our support for the Gospel is the only sensible investment we could make because it banks on things God has already promised. Look, for instance, at the Lutheran Reformation. During those turbulent years, you might have thought that the Reformers had little to be optimistic about. Less than four years after Luther nailed his 95 theses on the



door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Emperor Charles V declared the Reformation illegal. The pure teaching of God's word and the right administration of the sacraments was prohibited throughout the empire.

But did our Lutheran forefathers lose heart? Of course not! Quite the opposite, in June of 1530 the Lutheran princes marched joyfully and confidently into the emperor's court, and, to voice their protest, wore on their right sleeves a blazon with the letters VDMA. These letters stand for "Verbum Dei Manet in Aeternam," meaning "The Word of God endures forever." What a confession! This bold specimen of Christian optimism was henceforth and remains today the motto of the Lutheran Reformation. Jesus says: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). God has committed these words to you and your children. He has planted them in your hearts. Your Christian brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic believe them too. Dear friends, I invite you to invest your prayers and financial support in the eternal words of Jesus being preached in the Dominican Republic. Your investment has already succeeded because the Word of God endures forever. Yes, I'm optimistic!

You can read more about what the Preus family is doing by going to www.facebook.preus.dominican, or via the LCMS website at: www.lcms.org/preus.

Board of Directors

October 12, 2015

Members present: Connie Brammeier, Mark Fairhurst, Dan

Goodroad, Larry Goodroad, Nelson Hayes, Ian Larson, Bob Marchert, Lisa Starkebaum, Norm Sowell, and Leslie Young.

Mark Fairhurst opened with prayer.

Transfers: Eldora and Roy Keller and Jana Schwarz transferred in from Campus Lutheran Church. Norm moved we accept, Leslie seconded.

Nelson moved we accept last month's minutes, Norm seconded.

We had a request to use our fellowship hall for a funeral for a person from Springfield, MO, on October 17th. Norm moved we allow, Bob seconded.

Pastor: N/A

VP: Read letter of resignation from Curt.

Treasurer: Nelson moved we receive the report, Mark seconded.

Elders: Talked about visits, the Synodical Convention delegate and went over how many we have coming to Wednesday classes.

Properties: We are still having issues with the phone in the elevator dialing out. Norm has been taking measures to resolve these issues.

Evangelism: Shared the post card we will be sending to people who move into the area.

Education: The Christmas program was ordered and is scheduled for December 20th in the evening. Practices will be held on Sunday afternoon after Sunday School.

Stewardship: Continuing to work on articles.

Youth: The youth snack list has been put together; they will be doing the 2nd Sunday of each month. On October 25th they are going to

the pumpkin patch and carving pumpkins. Still looking into fundraising ideas.

Public Relations: Continuing to submit articles and updating Facebook. Bishop Asiago is visiting on October 22nd.

Planning: Nothing new to report.

Services: N/A

Unfinished Business: We have several offices to fill for the upcoming term.

New Business: Melvin Altis came to speak about the findings and recommendations he and his committee have been working on for church security. Recommendations and potential future plans include awareness training, building preparedness, and church access. They will be attending a Disaster Seminar and will put together an action plan after that.

Larry moved we adjourn, Norm seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Goodroad

Walther's Letter To New Members

The following is a letter from the first Synodical President of the LCMS to new members of his congregation. He writes:

By signing the constitution of our congregation, you have shown that you approve of it and have solemnly promised to abide in it. In the name of the congregation I welcome you as voting members. Permit me to add a few remarks.

Only that is a good deed which is promoted by proper motives and performed in a proper spirit. Alms, for example, are good deeds only when given out of love, not under

pressure or merely to make people believe that you are a Christian. Diligence in our earthly calling is a good deed only when it issues from the desire to please God, who wills that we eat our daily bread in the sweat of the brow, and not because you wish to gain riches.

The same holds true with respect to joining a Christian congregation. That, too, is a good deed only if we do so because it is Christ's will that believers unite in proclaiming His Word, conducting public worship, and building and spreading His kingdom. The same step would be sinful if taken for the sake of earthly gain, as we read of Simon, the sorcerer, who joined the Christian congregation in Samaria to enrich himself in a material way. (Acts 8)

What has been said holds true also in the case of those who unite with a truly Evangelical Lutheran congregation. And this step is a good deed only if they wish to join such a congregation in preference to a congregation of another denomination because they are convinced that the Evangelical Lutheran Church teaches the pure, unadul-

terated doctrine of God's Word. Were someone, however, to seek voting membership in a Lutheran congregation simply because he was born and reared in its midst, or to please his parents, or because his friends are members of that congregation, or because the location of its church makes it convenient to attend its services, he would not perform a good deed, even

though God may have led him into that church for the purpose of making him a true Lutheran, in other words, an orthodox Christian.

What has been said emphasizes three factors that are essential in the make-up of a genuine member of a Lutheran congregation.

A genuine member of a Lutheran congregation must have a thorough under-

standing of pure Lutheran doctrine or at least must desire to grow in the knowledge of it. Such a one will imitate the Bereans in searching the Scriptures daily, he will not lay aside his Catechism when he has completed his elementary school training, but throughout his life continue to review it in order that he may understand it better and become more thoroughly

grounded in it. He will read other good orthodox books and periodicals to become ever more firmly established in the pure doctrine. In Hebrews 5:12 those Christians who are neglectful in this point are censured. We read: "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food."

A member of a Lutheran congregation must be able to defend his faith and to prove its correctness from God's Word. St. Peter writes, I Peter 3:15: "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." A sad state of affairs is revealed when members of a Lutheran congregation, asked about their faith, say, "*You will have to ask my pastor about that.*"

A member of a Lutheran congregation should be able to distinguish pure doctrine from false doctrines. Only spineless Lutherans can say: "*What do I care about doctrinal controversies! They do not concern me in the least. I'll let those who are more learned than I am bother their heads about such matters.*"

They may even be offended when they observe that religious leaders engage in doctrinal disputes. A genuine Lutheran will not forget that in the Epistle of Jude also lay Christians are admonished "earnestly to contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints." What is more, Christ warns all Christians: "Beware of false prophets." And St. John writes in his first epistle: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but try the

Still Attending



spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

It is a settled fact that whoever is indifferent to false doctrine is indifferent also to pure doctrine and his soul's salvation, and has no right to bear the name Lutheran and the name of Christ.

Lutherans For Life

The Northland Chapter meets the quarterly at the home of Fran and Marsha Szarejko. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Murphy, 628-6815. Everyone is invited to join us at these meetings.

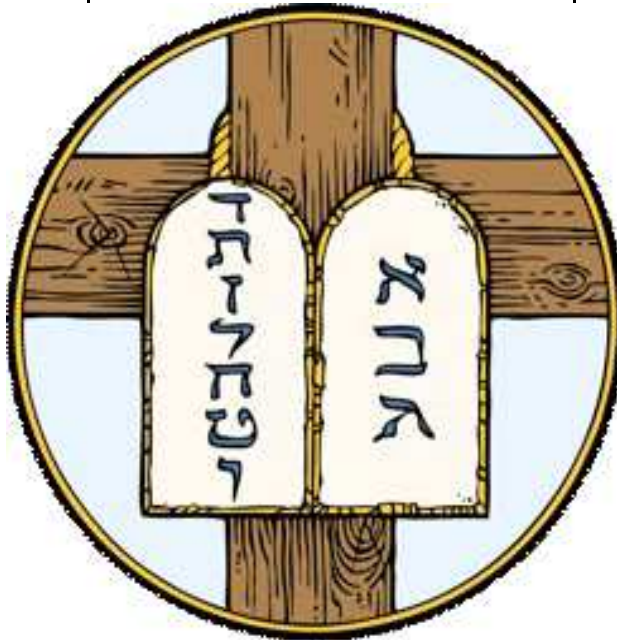
Trinity Care Group

Do you need assistance because of illness, birth of a baby, death, hospitalization, etc.? Trinity Care Group can help. We would be happy to arrange for providing meals, doing errands, visiting with the family, etc. Please contact Dee Hoffman at 320-2490.

LWML Quilt Sunday

Our second annual LWML Quilt Sunday will be Sunday, November 1st. Our quilting ladies have been busy this year making quilts, table runners, and Christmas tree skirts for you to purchase for yourself or for Christmas gifts. This year we will be doing things a little different than last year. We will have the quilts on display the Sunday before, which will be October 25th. This year we will have a silent auction. You will be able to put a bid on any quilt you wish to purchase. However, others can also bid on the same quilt! The following Sunday, November 1st, you will have

one last chance to place a bid. You can bid as many times as you want. Highest bidder gets the quilt. As we did last year, there will be a minimum price on all quilts.



Proceeds from the quilt sale will go to local charities for part of our annual Christmas donations.

It Is To Laugh

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the girl was drawing. The girl replied, “I’m drawing God.” The teacher paused and said, “But no one knows what God looks like.” Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, “They will in a minute.”

Top Of The Hill

The Top Of The Hill Group will meet Tuesday, November 10, at 11:30 AM at church. Please join us for lots of fun, fellowship and great food!

Ladies Night Out

Our next get-together is our annual visit to the Cheesecake Factory on the Plaza on November 16 at 6:00 P.M. Please plan to join us for good food and fellowship and sign up on the kiosk. Questions? Contact Shari Schley, 686-3270.

Family Fellowship

The group's event for November will be a chili contest at the Korondis'. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Children's Christmas Program

Joy To The World! Our children's Christmas program will be December 20th, at 7:00. I have started to lay out an idea of what needs to be done. I would love your input and assistance. Our program this year is a new one from CPH. I'd like costumes and props to be re-worked and/or created. Please contact me if you'd like to be involved in this special time for the congregation's families. Leslie Young 816-308-5970.

MLA Cookie Walk

The Martin Luther Academy Cookie Walk/Holiday Cookie Sale and Vendor Fair will be December 5 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the MLA gym. Cookies will be sold by the pound. All other items such as pies, cakes, etc. will be priced individually. We will have the Vendor Fair this year with products from Avon, Scentsy, Tastefully Simple, Juice Plus, Mary Kay, It Works, etc. Please plan to us in. If you would like to donate any baked goods or would like to have a table in the Vendor Fair, please contact Stephanie Parker, 590-1518, or email: jayhawkfan@att.net.

Youth News

Our youth group went to the local Fun Farm pumpkin patch on October 25. A total of 5 youth attended the event along with 5 adults. We enjoyed the petting zoo, a huge corn pile to bury ourselves in (or lose things if you're not careful), and the hayride to pick our pumpkins! After selecting our pumpkins, we returned to church for pumpkin carving, roasting pumpkin seeds and making caramel apples.

Advent season is quickly approaching. On November 29, the youth group will be hosting a soup supper prior to the Hanging of the Greens. We will plan to serve dinner around 5:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

The youth group will also be hosting the first Advent meal on Wednesday, December 2.

Trinity's youth group is comprised of grades 6-12 and everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Starkebaum or Connie Brammeier.

LWML

Date: October 12, 2015

Call to Order: Dianne Mischlich

Opening Hymn: "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

Opening Prayer: Dianne Mischlich recited a poem by Helen Steiner Rice, "Windows of Gold" and LWML.

Pledge was recited.

Attendance: Dianne Mischlich, Judy Goodwin, Kay Sowell, Marlo Howard, Janet Miller, June Lueckert, Joyce Lehning, Mary Wornson, Penny Harris, Janis Bozarth.

Minutes: September minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kay Sowell reported a current balance of \$2,002.26 which included \$17.81 in mites. A free will offering was taken. Mission Grant Story was read by Janet Miller entitled "Disaster Response Trailers".

Quilting Report: LWML Quilt Sunday was discussed. The quilt items will be displayed on 10/25 and the silent auction will be on 11/1. Minimum bid prices and auction procedures were discussed.

Unfinished Business: No volunteers for Ronald McDonald House for this coming Thursday.

Mayes wedding on 9/26 was discussed.

Spaghetti dinner on 9/20 was discussed. Thank you to Marlo Howard for all her efforts. Discussed what to purchase for kitchen with proceeds.

New Business: Discussion was had about LWML Sunday on Quilt Sunday 11/1. LWML ladies would usher, wear purple and sing.

Third Sunday Treats: November 15: Judy Goodwin, Penny Harris, Dianne Mischlich; December 20: Marlo Howard, Joyce Lehning, Dianne Mischlich; January 17: Janis Bozarth, Penny Harris, Dianne Mischlich (assuming we use 2015 schedule)

Next meeting will be Monday, November 9 at 9:00 a.m. with Judy Goodwin as hostess.

Business meeting was adjourned with prayer and prayer requests led by Penny Harris.

Refreshments were served by hostess Janet Miller.

No quilt meeting was held.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Bozarth, Secretary

Soli Deo Gloria