

# *First Lutheran Church*

300 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Prophetstown, IL 61277

Phone: 815-537-2758

*Newsletter - December, 2017*

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## **Council President's Report**

I Corinthians 12:4-7

*“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”*

I must start by saying how proud I am of our congregation, and how privileged I am to serve as First Lutheran Church Council President. Although we faced some difficult times and decisions this year, I am continually impressed at how we have come together and contributed to the work of the church with grace and love for all.

When I wrote my council report for the Annual Meeting there were a couple of people that I forgot to thank for their continued blessings within our congregation. First, thanks to Randy Roland for his willingness to direct our adult choir each week. The choir always adds so much to our worship. Second, to Jeanne Frank for leading us in worship with her organ and piano talents. Jeanne we don't know what we would do without you each and every week. Thank you to you both.

Beginning December 17<sup>th</sup> we will welcome Pastor Susan Davenport from Morrison as our Interim Pastor. On the 17<sup>th</sup> she will join us for worship, and at a meet and greet during fellowship following worship. Please join us that day to welcome Pastor Davenport.

As I reflect back on the past year's activities, I believe it is important to remember our mission statement: “First Lutheran Church welcomes all to worship by nurturing those in their Christian faith through Word and Sacrament and equipping them for service to others throughout their daily lives.” If we believe in our mission, then we believe our church is a family, connected through the gospel, and sent out with a message of God's never-ending love for all. Through prayer and faith God wants us to work together, to get involved, by our living, by our praying, by our giving, and by our caring. That work may be within our church, our community, or our world. Let's continue to be receptive to his call of service and, when it comes, obey it.

As we move ahead to 2018, I pray that our church will continue to be blessed by God, seek to be more like Jesus, and moved by the Holy Spirit so that our faith may grow together. The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

Yours in Christ,  
Gary Hinrichs

## **November Prayer Concerns**

Pete Frank, Dave Meyer, Stan Urban, Burdette Sandrock, Carole & Dick Minssen, Ann Deck, Peggy Kuelper, Michelle Wetzell, Steve and Andrew McCracken son and grandson of Paul & Charlene McCracken, Lisa Brandts sister of Rhonda Bohms, Annulka Willard daughter of Rosemary & Paul Sibley, Paul & Tanya Cocking son and daughter-in-law of Ken & JoAnne Cocking, Evelyn “Evie” Kline

great granddaughter of Bob & Geri Cassens, Scott Lyman son-in-law of Ken & Ellen Pannier.  
Community member: Sammy Hodgett. Serving in the military: Sean Pratt son of Drew & Becky Emery, Donnie Appleman son-in-law of Larry & Lynda VanDyke, Lindsey Gardner niece of Gwen Gardner, Anna Olsen wife of Kent Olsen, Max Sampson grandson of Darrel & Glenda Sampson, Joseph Hickey great nephew of Lelia & Darryl Gibson.

Prayers to Joyce, Paul, Charlene McCracken and family on the passing of Joyce's sister Bonnie Gielau from Denver, IA on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Prayers to Dwight Parker and family on the passing of his wife Lillian Parker on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Prayers to the family of Tammy Fisk Hinrichs, neice of Charlotte & Arlyn Ackerman, on her passing on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Update on Sammy Hodgett age 9, son of Mike & Becky Dietz Hodgett from Tampico. He was diagnosed in December, 2014, with T cell leukemia, and is currently much improved. He will continue chemotherapy until summer of 2018.

### **October Financial Report**

Balance 9-30-17 . . . . . \$ 3,575.78

Balance 10-31-17 . . . . . \$ 3,948.72

### **Church Meetings:** Tuesday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>

Committee Meetings @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.



### **Advent**

We look forward to the celebration of Jesus' first coming. Advent began on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Each week during worship we will be lighting the Advent candles during worship.

### **December 24<sup>th</sup> – 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Communion & Candlelight Service**

On Christmas Eve we celebrate Jesus' birth around the table of the Lord. As we celebrate the Word made Flesh, we receive our Lord born in us in bread and wine. Our 9am service will be traditional and at 7pm we will have the candlelight service with the singing of favorite hymns of the season. Welcome the Lord's birth.

### **Poinsettias for Christmas Eve**

Please help beautify the sanctuary on Christmas Eve with a poinsettia - have them at church by 8:00 a.m. Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Plants may be taken home following the Christmas Eve worship service. Informational forms are available on the hallway tables. Please have your completed form submitted to the church office by Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Annual Meeting**

First Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> following worship in the sanctuary. We will look over the past year. Hear about our committees, our finances and plan for our future. Our youth will be serving brunch after the meeting. They will have breakfast casseroles and all the extras. Please help support them on their fundraising.

### **Message from Amanda**

Thank you for yet another amazing year of love and support for the youth of our congregation! What are your hopes for Advent and Christmas? I hope I can be with my family as much as possible. I hope the work of the church continues in new and beautiful ways. I hope I will hear God's message for us in the Bible in amazing places and unexpected times. Will you join me in a fun daily devotion during Advent? I have found picture devotions to be very meaningful. LEC Family has a wonderful picture-a-day devotional. If you can, go to <http://lecfamily.org/advent> to find a picture list (take a picture or use ones you already have taken) to use for your devotions. There are also great family devotion resources as well as a daily devotion that you can have sent to your email. During this time of the year, we can focus on the "other stuff" too much, instead of the "main thing." That would be God. Let's work together to make God the center of our lives! Blessings and Merry Christmas!

### **Sunday School Christmas Program**

We are now practicing for our program on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. During Sunday School, the students will practice the songs they will sing, and learn about the story of Jesus' birth. There will be practice the day before on Sat. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am-noon, followed by a pizza lunch. Please make every effort to bring your students to Sunday School during this time. Thank you!

### **Carry-out Chili and Soup**

Baby, it's cold outside, so have some Chili! FLY will be making chili and soup after the Christmas program practice on Sat. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, and will sell it to take home after worship on Sunday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be several sizes available, so take a little home for lunch, or a lot home for dinner! This is one of the ways FLY raises money for their trips and projects. Thank you to Sherry Sandrock for donating a Thrivent Action Team to the youth group. Thank you to everyone for your support!

### **Installation of WELCA Officers**

#### **Thank Offering Collection**

On Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> the new officers of WELCA will be installed during worship. President – Connie Johnson; Vice-president – Lynda VanDyke; Secretary – Joan Johnson; Treasurer – Vicki Ottens; Action – Glenda Sampson; Altar – Diane Jones & Carole Minssen; Community – Charlene Hanson; Library – Gwen Gardner. The Thank Offering will be received at that time, checks can be made out to WELCA. The Thank Offering shows our thanks for blessings in the ordinary & extraordinary moments of life.

### **Operation Cookie Swap**

The Evangelism Committee would like to present Operation Cookie Swap. I always look forward to this time of year when our family and friends get together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Many of us are extra busy during this time baking all those wonderful cookies we like to share. We thought having a cookie swap would be a fun way to serve up a wide variety of cookies. Each participant will select 'one' type of cookie and bake six dozen of them to share. We ask that participants sign up and include what kind of cookie they will be making. We have a few rules that must be followed:

1. All cookies should be home-made with the main ingredient being flour.
2. No cookie mixes and No store bought cookies
3. "No-bake" cookies are not permitted because they are too fragile for transport.
4. Each participant is expected to bring 6 dozen cookies (all the same kind) to share.
5. Cookies should be arranged on a platter or in a basket to be displayed for the cookie exchange.
6. Participants will bring their own container to take their cookies home.
7. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please be sure to include what type of cookie you plan to bake. *Please no duplicate recipes allowed.* We want a variety!
8. Please give a copy of your cookie recipe to [darleneproeger@yahoo.com](mailto:darleneproeger@yahoo.com)

The cookie swap will take place on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the basement of the church. Any questions, call Darlene Proeger at 815-520-6875.

## **FLY to Gathering in Houston**

As you know, a group of 14 youth and adults will go to Houston in June, 2018 for the ELCA Youth Gathering. We are very excited for this event, and the amazing opportunities that we will get to experience! We need your help to get there! FLY will have 2 continuous fundraisers going starting in December. Part of our time in Houston will be spent in a day of community service. We hope to help people *change* their communities, so we as that you give your change to us! Those few cents that are left in your pocket or purse at the end of the day can be put to good use if you donate them to FLY! There is a bucket decorated and ready to receive your coins. It will start on the table in the Narthex, but will occasionally change locations, so watch for it! One thing Lutherans are known for, is that we like to eat in groups. Well, 30,000 Lutherans mouths are a lot to feed at one time in Houston! FLY will only have to feed 14 of those bellies during our time there, and you can help us by sponsoring meals for our participants! There will be a fun chart available for you to help sponsor meals: \$20 will sponsor ½ a day, \$40 sponsors a whole day, and \$280 sponsors a whole week! As meals are sponsored, fun facts will be uncovered about our youth and adults going on the trip. Learn likes, hopes, and silly info about the great people you are sponsoring! Again, this chart will start in the narthex, but will also change location. So please prayerfully consider helping our group out with your change and by sponsoring meals. Please talk to Amanda if you have any questions!

## **Men in Mission**

On Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 a.m. all men, members of the church or not, are welcome to join us for breakfast, bible study and discussion.

## **WELCA Salad Luncheon-Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>**

The ladies will have their annual Christmas Salad Luncheon on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at the church. It will be a time of fun and fellowship. The WELCA Officers will be hosting. All women members of the church are invited.

Ladies please bring a salad and one dozen cookies. The WELCA officers will provide drinks and rolls. The extra cookies will be used to make trays for our shut-in congregation members. Hope you can join us, all FLC ladies are welcome.

## **WELCA Bake Sale–December 10<sup>th</sup>**

The annual Bake Sale will be held on Sun. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> following worship and the Sunday School Christmas Program. All are welcome to donate bake sale items and/or purchase a treat. The proceeds will go to support our youth.

## ***December Birthday Celebrations***

We wish to send a “Birthday Greeting” to all of our members celebrating this month. A special greeting is extended to our members who are 80 or over.

Stan Jensen – 8<sup>th</sup>

Neva Emery – 17<sup>th</sup>

Ethel Jensen – 20<sup>th</sup>

Viola Powell – 24<sup>th</sup>

Please refer to your church directory for the entire birthday list of our members.

## **Youth Ski Day**

Please start thinking about attending the annual Northern IL Synod Ski Trip at Chestnut Mountain in Galena. The date is Martin Luther King Day, January 15, 2018. Lift, rental, and lesson is \$47, and lift only is \$29. Meal deals are available for \$8. Please let Amanda know if you will be attending!

## **Attention All Thrivent Members**

First Lutheran Youth would like to ask for your help specifically this year with fundraising, and it won't cost you anything! Did you know one of your member benefits is two \$250 Action Team Grants every year? You can use those grants to purchase supplies, advertising, food, postage, and more to help subsidize costs on community service events, educational events, or even your church's youth group fundraisers! We would like to partner with you to help make our fundraising efforts this year even more profitable. All it takes is an online application to get your Action Team funded, and Amanda can help you do that! Please talk to Amanda about donating your grants to the youth group. We'd sure appreciate it! Blessings and thank you!



### **Assisting in December**

#### **Pastors**

3 – Pastor Kathy Burkheimer  
10 – Sunday School Program  
17 – Pastor Roger Asplund and  
Pastor Susan Davenport  
24 – 9am Pastor Susan Davenport  
24 – 7pm Pastor Susan Davenport  
31 - Pastor Susan Davenport

#### **Ushers**

Andy & Natalie Cruse, Dave & Pam Strike

#### **Greeters**

Curt & Nancy Cruse, Ann Deck, Charlene Hanson

#### **Altar Committee**

Vicki Ottens, Charlene Hanson, Deb Ackerman, Chelsie VanDyke

#### **Assisting Minister**

17 – Lynda VanDyke  
24 – 9am Amanda Schanze  
24 – 7pm Donna Roland

**Cantor** Cathy Hinrichs

#### **Readers**

3 – Joan Johnson  
10 – Heather Vahle  
17 – Amy Jones  
24 – 9am Aaron Johnson  
24 – 7pm Charlene Hanson  
31 – Donna Roland

#### **Acolytes**

3 – Jackson Minssen  
10 – Carl Sonnenberg

17 – Jacob Malone  
24 – 9am Connor Sandrock  
24 – 7pm Emyli Sandrock  
31 – Sabrina Soleta

## **Mission Statement**

First Lutheran Church welcomes all to worship by nurturing those in their Christian faith through Word and Sacrament and equipping them for service to others throughout their daily lives.

## **Core Values**

1. There is only one God
2. We are gathered by Word and Sacrament
3. Acceptance of ALL God's people
4. Discipleship is a lifelong faith journey
5. We are called to serve

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## Sunday Schedule

Sunday Worship . . . . . 9:00 a.m.

Epic Sunday School . . . . . 10:15 a.m.

## How to Reach Us

Office Phone - 815-537-2758

Fax # - 815-537-5919

E-mail . . . . [flcptown@frontiernet.net](mailto:flcptown@frontiernet.net)

Website . . . [www.firstlutheran-ptown.org](http://www.firstlutheran-ptown.org)

Youth & Family Ministry

Amanda Schanze

Cell Phone: 309-236-1920

Secretary Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00 - Noon