

First Lutheran Church

300 W. 3rd St. Prophetstown, IL 61277

Phone: 815-537-2758

Newsletter - February, 2018



Give thanks to the God of heaven, for God's mercy endures forever.

Psalm 136: 26

Forgotten by most Christians for about 1400 years, the ancient Easter Vigil has been restored in many modern churches as a dramatic way of ushering in the highest Holy Day of the Christian calendar.

Containing both a solemn and joyous celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, the service is composed of four parts: the lighting of the paschal fire, the service of readings, baptisms and baptismal renewal, and Eucharist (Holy Communion). As many as twelve Old Testament readings can be included.

Each reading offers an image with which to picture salvation: the earth is God's perfect creation; we are saved in the ark during the flood; we are granted a reprieve from sacrifice; we escape the enemy army; we are enlivened by spring rains; we are instructed by Woman Wisdom; we are given a new heart; our bones are brought back to life; we enjoy a homeland; when we are swallowed by the fish, we do not drown but are coughed up on dry ground; we wear party clothes; thrown into a furnace, we emerge untouched by the fire; we are risen with Christ; and although we do mistake Christ for the gardener, he appears to us and enlivens our faith.

This year during Lent, First Lutheran will participate in a mid-week Wednesday Round Robin series that highlights some of these readings entitled, "Journey to the Easter Vigil." Below is the schedule First Lutheran will follow and the names of the pastors who will share a message on that evening. We will worship each Wednesday using "Holden Evening Prayer" (except for Ash Wednesday—see below).

Hope you will consider adding the Lenten discipline of mid-week worship to your schedule.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Pastor Susan Davenport'.

Pastor Susan Davenport

Midweek FLC Lent Schedule

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

Feb 21 Creation – Pastor Vicki Sauter (Bethesda, Morrison)

Feb 28 Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace – Pastor Bree Truax (Immanuel, Rock Falls)

March 7 Deliverance at the Red Sea—Pastor Brandon Nelson (St. Paul, Sterling)

March 14 Flood – Pastor Jacob Gawlik (St. John, Sterling)

March 21 Testing of Abraham - Pastor Susan Davenport (FLC)

Council Meeting - Jan. 9th

Election of officers for the 2018:

Pam Strike - President

Paul McCracken - Vice President

Jason Robshaw - Treasurer

Sharon Anderson - Secretary

December Minutes: Approved

Treasurer's Report: Approved

Pastor's Report: Clergy Housing Exclusion 2018 was presented by Pastor and her request for the \$20,000 housing allowance was approved

President's Report: Nothing to report

Youth & Family Ministry: Report given by Kelly Larrabee: Amanda's concerns regarding who is overseeing her position, compensation and or/extra time off when overnights are required, etc. Also a job description for her position. The executive committee along with Pastor and Amanda will meet to discuss these items further.

Property: Smoke detectors and the Medical Box were checked. Supplies were added to the Medical Box and it will be labeled.

Stewardship & Finance: Nothing to report

Worship & Music: Hymns were chosen for March. Copyright License fee for \$185 was approved. Sending of Communion pouches will be placed on the altar by the altar committee to be blessed on the Sundays that communion is given. It was suggested that we do not do the Lenten meals this year and revisit it next year.

New Business: Jason Robshaw suggested that the term of the treasurer be lengthened. This will be taken up by the executive council and pastor.

Meeting closed with prayer.

December Financial Report

Beginning	\$ 3,075.31
Deposits	25,257.60
Disbursements	- 17,336.15
Transfer to Building . .	- 1,784.00
Correction	- 0.00
Balance	\$ 9,212.76

Church Meetings: Tuesday, Feb. 13th

Committee Meetings @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

January Prayer Concerns

Doug Jensen, Jean Milnes, Stan Urban, Burdette Sandroock, Carole & Dick Minssen, Michelle Wetzell, Peggy Kuelper, Rick Chapman husband of Mindy Chapman, Faye Goldecker mother of Sherry Sandroock, Sarah Hill granddaughter in-law of Joyce McCracken, Steve and Andrew McCracken son and grandson of Paul & Charlene McCracken, Lisa Brandts sister of Rhonda Bohms, Annulka Willard daughter of Rosemary & Paul Sibley, 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
Prayers to the family of Effie Drain on her passing on Friday, January 5th in Cridersville, OH.

Prayers to Russ & Vicki Ottens, Chad & Ashley, Troy and families on the passing of Russ' mother Wilma Ottens Huizenga on Tuesday, January 23rd.

Pancake Breakfast – February 11th

FLAG will be serving the annual pre-Lenten Pancake Breakfast after worship on Sunday, February 11th. Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee cake, and beverages. Please come and enjoy this free meal courtesy of FLAG. Everyone is welcome!

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14th is Ash Wednesday. We begin our Lenten Journey. Lent is an annual season of fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday and lasting 40 weekdays to Easter.

No Evening Lent Dinners

The Council and Committees have decided this year during Lent there will be no evening dinners. The continuation of these dinners for next year will be discussed at that time.

FLC Lenten Worship Series: A Lenten Journey to the Easter Vigil

Join us at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays during lent for worship as each week we will have a journey to the Easter vigil. Each week for worship we will have one of our conference pastors leading us. Complete listing is on this newsletter cover. The service will be the Holden Evening Prayer.

Men in Mission

On Sunday, Feb. 4th at 7:30 a.m. all men, members of the church or not, are welcome to join us for breakfast, bible study and discussion. A new program will begin "Gospel Too Small".

A Message from Amanda

Ralph Waldo Emerson said "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." This weekend all paths led to Houston. Almost a thousand church youth workers came together to renew, educate, and connect. This path to Houston was filled with excitement- of seeing friends, meeting new people, and hearing amazing stories of faith. While we did all follow the path to Houston, the reason it was there in the first place was because faithful and committed, and probably a little crazy, people blazed a trail to create the ELCA Youth Ministry Network. This national network puts on this amazing event called the Extravaganza each year so that other people who are making their own trails can share what they've learned about social justice, worship, self-care, music, fundraising, cross generational ministry, and *so much more*. For me to be able to be a part of this as a Regional Facilitator and general participant gives me some of the tools I need to find my way forward on the unmarked trails of ministry- not just here at First, but in so many other areas. Thank you- all of you- for allowing me the time to renew my faith, educate my thoughts, and connect to an amazing body of believers. Thanks be to God for those who make the paths for the rest of us! Blessings!

FLUBBER is in need of a CD player. The one we currently are using skips a lot, and only has 2 volume levels- soft or really loud! If anyone has a gently used one (new is not necessary) that they could part with, we will use it. Please talk to Amanda if you can help us with this need. Thank you!

Souper Bowl of Caring

Look on your dressers, tables, night stands. Look in your couches, cars, and pockets. What do these places have in common? Change! Gather your change together and bring it to church on Sunday, February 4th for Souper Bowl of Caring! Once again, the youth will be taking a collection after church in soup pots to donate to a hunger related cause. FLY will bring it with them to the National Youth Gathering this summer to help with hunger issues in Houston. Thank you for your generosity, and please help us out again this year!

WELCA

The general meeting will be held on Monday, February 12th at 1:30 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Riverview Estates. All women members of the church are invited. Hostess and Bible Leader will be Lynda VanDyke.

Sign-up Sheets

Your help is needed for 2018. The sign-up sheets are on the narthex table at church for you to lend your time and talents for the year. Needed areas are: Assisting Ministers, Greeters, Ushers.

2018 Information Directory

Time is fast approaching to develop the FLC directory for 2018. If you have any updated contact information: street address, e-mail, land line or cell phone numbers, please let the office know. Please remember to give us the updates for your extended family too.

Community Vacation Bible School

Our church will be the host site for Community Vacation Bible School this summer! Please be on the lookout for announcements, and put July 23-27 on your calendars. We will announce our theme soon, and start having regular planning meetings starting in February. We have a slightly later start than we are used to, so all prayers and helpers are appreciated!

February 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.

Leonard Finck – 2nd

Ron Meier – 21st

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

Assisting in February

Ushers

Mark Melton

Randy Skelton

Jeff Olsen
Larry VanDyke

Greeters

Dave Meyer
Kerry Meyer
Rick Woolums
Anna Woolums

Altar Committee

Lynda VanDyke
Becky Emery
JoDee Olsen

Assisting Minister

14 – Lynda VanDyke
18 – Ken Cocking

Cantor

Randy Roland

Readers

4 – Drew Emery
11 – Amanda Schanze
14 – 7 p.m. Jeanne Frank
18 – Heather Vahle
25 – Hannah Schanze

Acolytes

4 – Carl Sonnenberg
11 – Connor Sandroock
14 – 7 p.m. Connor Sandroock
18 – Jacob Malone
21 – 7 p.m. Sabrina Soleta
25 – Max Vahle
28 – 7 p.m. Tinley Wetzell

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



Contact Us

Church Office - 815-537-2758

Website: www.firstlutheran-ptown.org

FLC Email: flcptown@frontiernet.net

Pastor Susan Davenport – Interim Pastor

Cell Phone: 563-613-3892

Email: pastorsusan@frontier.com

Youth & Family Ministry

Amanda Schanze

Cell Phone: 309-236-1920

Secretary Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00 - Noon

Sunday Schedule

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Epic Sunday School 10:15 a.m.