

First Lutheran Church

300 West Third Street Prophetstown, IL 61277
Phone: 815-537-2758

Newsletter for Members & Friends

January, 2017

Back to the Basics: Welcome 2017

My 2nd grader Trace and I tend to have a daily conflict of interest over a little subject matter called math. While Trace would rather be off watching TV or playing on the computer, I would like him to be able to do simple addition and subtraction without using his fingers or toes or anything else but his magnificent brain. Trace however has no interest in practicing his math facts with me and often enjoys getting a rise out of me by intentionally getting them wrong and then laughing at his cleverness thinking he tricked me. Even though some of our math battles are exhausting and getting very old, I am determined to get him to master these basic math facts because I know that what he is learning now is foundational to everything else he will be learning in math, and some day he just might take it seriously.

So as my son and I battle out the basics of mathematics, we enter into the basics of Christianity; the season of Epiphany. In what is often referred to as the bread and butter of Christianity, it is throughout Epiphany that we find the foundational stuff of Christian life. Many foundational and well-known texts are packed into this season: “To do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God”; the Beatitudes; “Love your enemies”; “Here is the Lamb of God”; “Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified”; and many more phrases that you may find yourself reciting as much as reading. Through all eight weeks the texts point again and again to the centrality of Christ, his life and teaching. He is the servant, the lamb, the light, the foundation, and the beloved Son. For us, his disciples, the attention turns to our baptismal identity and activity. We find passages that fill out the image of discipleship in commandments, justice, testimony, and praise, all rooted in the joy and confidence of our baptism into Christ.

This time in the church year is often experienced as a lull, but with that comes the opportunity to scale back and focus intentionally on central things (kind of like basic math). Let the texts’ primary themes—Christ, baptism, discipleship, and light be a part of your daily devotions and reflections. In one sense these eight weeks of going back to the basics are very simple: they focus on Christ and how he has transformed our lives. In another sense that means that all the joy, struggle, and complexity of Christian life can be found here in this little green season. Blessing to you and yours as we enter this season of light.

In Epiphany Awe and Wonder,
Pastor Katie

November Financial Report

Beginning	\$ 7,870.72
Deposits	16,680.44
Disbursements	– 18,177.08
Correction	– 0.02
Balance	\$ 6,374.10

December 13, 2016:

Sanctuary Light Project	\$ - 4,387.00
Youth Dir. Cont. Ed.	- 175.76
Men in Mission Study guide	<u>- 175.00</u>
Actual General Fund . . .	\$ - 1,636.34

Next Church Meetings

Tuesday, January 10th

Committee Meetings – 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting – 8:00 p.m.

No highlights from December Council Meeting

Look for the posted Council minutes on the hallway bulletin board.

Online Giving to FLC

Please use www.firstlutheran-ptown.org to give through the company VanCo. You choose the options on your account.

FLC December Prayer Concerns

Amber Davis, Sally Johnson, Betty Reichard, Patrick Hinrichs, Connie Johnson, Viola Powell, Matthew Martin nephew of Lynda Van Dyke, Donna VanDyke mother of Larry VanDyke, Scott Lyman son-in-law of Ken & Ellen Pannier. Community members: Shirley Richardson mother of Carolyn Hohenboken, Sammy Hodgett. Serving in the military: Tyler Heflin son of Judi & Chris Breitbach, Gabe Larson son of Ed & Kim Larson, Sean Pratt son of Drew & Becky Emery, Donnie Appleman son-in-law of Larry & Lynda VanDyke, Lyndsey Gardner niece of Gwen Gardner, Anna Helmkamp fiancée of Kent Olsen.

The passing of Doug Chamberlain on Dec. 24th, husband of Avis Chamberlain.

Pastoral Acts

January – December 2016

Baptisms

7-16-16 Harper Rin Davis
11-6-16 Penelope Love Gerlach
11-18-16 Braxtyn Tyler Thompson

First Communion: 3-24-16

Liam Johnson
Jackson Minssen
Carl Sonnenberg
Lexi Miniell

Confirmed: 10-30-16

Carsen Farral
Kaitlin Hanrahan
Clayton Johnson
Olivia Bugeson-Miniell
Ross Purvis
Myria Sandrock
Sean Sandrock
Samantha Soleta

Funerals

6-11-16 Barton L. Hooghem
10-14-16 Cleora J. Roth
12-29-16 Douglas O. Chamberlain

Brunch Served by FLY on January 25, 2017

FLY will be hosting another brunch on January 25th. Please join them downstairs as they serve breakfast burritos and other breakfast favorites. Thank you for your generous donations in the past, and your continued support of this group. It means a lot to us!

A message from Amanda

Advent was a time of waiting and hoping. Christmas was a time of rejoicing promises coming to fulfillment. And now we come to Epiphany, that time of... What IS Epiphany to the church anyway? I never really got excited about Epiphany (not an Apostrophe- HOOK reference, sorry!) until last year. Lightning did not exactly strike my brain (another HOOK reference- and no it didn't hurt) but I was enlightened, which is kind of what this season is about. It's a celebration of light in the darkness, of having that "a-ha" moment when we realize who and what Jesus truly was and is. We had an Epiphany party for Confirmation, and I really enjoyed learning about this season. At Epiphany, we usually think about the Wise Men. They followed the star (light) into unknown places, and without knowing what would happen along the way. They realized (a-ha) that Jesus was undeniably special and important, and the first Gentiles to worship him. God is still calling us into the light and guiding us with his word. During Epiphany, which leads right up to Lent, think about where and how God is guiding you. How Is Jesus being revealed to you? What are you hearing to tell you about who Jesus is for us today? Read Isaiah 49:6. Think about how you can be a light to the world. Amen.

Men in Mission

On Sunday, January 8th at 7:30 a.m. all men, members of the church or not, are welcome to join us for breakfast, bible study, discussion and how we can live out our belief in God every day in a world that seems to grow ever more secular.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas program on December 11th a success. Christa Robshaw worked so hard in making sure the program was full of fun and that the decorations enhanced the mood of the program. We had many people lend us Star Wars decorations and costumes, and it was so fun! Kids, parents, and teachers all worked hard on songs, readings, and a skit. The support from the congregation was evident in the number of people in the pews on that day- it was amazing to see so many family and friends worshipping together! Thank you for the opportunity to teach these young people about God and help them grow in their faith. Stay away from the Dark Side, and keep following the star to the Christ Child!

January 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.

Chuck Emery – 9th

Lillian Parker – 15th

Avis Chamberlain – 28th

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

Trivia Challenge

Who likes a good trivia challenge? If you know tidbits about the Bible, Small Catechism, church history, and Lutheran teachings, we have an exciting opportunity for you! February 25th the N. IL. Synod Central Conf. is hosting a fundraiser for LSSI with a Reformation 500 Challenge bowl. This is part of our Conference's celebration of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenburg, Germany. Teams are 3-5 people, and churches can have more than one team, even youth teams. Join us for this fun celebration and test your knowledge! Let Amanda or Pastor Katie know by February 1st if you are interested.

WELCA

The general meeting will follow a bible study on Monday, January 9th at 1:30 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Riverview Estates. All women members of the church are invited. The hostess and Bible leader will be Rosemary Sibley.

N. IL Synod Ski Day

Get out all of you winter weather gear, it's time to ski! The annual N. IL Synod Jr and Sr High ski trip will once again be held on Martin Luther King Jr Day on January 16th at Chestnut Mountain in Galena IL. We encourage families to go together, and for the youth to invite friends. The cost is \$47 for rental, lift ticket, and lesson if you need it, and \$27 for lift ticket only. Meal tickets are available for purchase as well. Please let Amanda know if you want to attend this event. It is always a fun time, both on the slopes and in the lodge!

Assisting in January

Ushers

Ron Johnson
Orval Johnson
Reid Johnson
Russ Ottens
Vicki Ottens

Greeters

Mark Melton
Gayle Melton
Gary Hinrichs
Cathy Hinrichs

Altar Committee

Sharon Anderson
Anna Woolums
Denise Cady

Assisting Ministers

8 – Marilyn Melton
15 – Ellen Pannier

Cantor

Ellen Pannier

Readers

1 – Marilyn Melton
8 – Cathy Hinrichs
15 – Rick Woolums
22 – Ben Sandrock
29 – Lelia Gibson

Acolytes

1 –
8 – Dawson Haggard
15 – Max Jones
22 – Sydney Minssen
29 – Max Vahle



Pastor & Staff

Pastor Katie Gallagher

Email: pastorkatie2002@yahoo.com

Parsonage: 815-537-2425

Cell Phone: 630-200-3288

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

10:00 a.m. to Noon, or by appointment

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 Hour Sunday School - 10:15 a.m.

How to Reach Us

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