

First Lutheran Church

300 W. 3rd St. Prophetstown, IL 61277

Phone: 815-537-2758

Newsletter - January, 2018



“ . . . When they saw the star, they were overjoyed . . . Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh . . . ” -Matthew 2: 10, 11

T.S. Eliot, the poet, writes a poem entitled “The Journey of the Magi,” based upon the journey of the three wise men seeking the Christ child. In the poem, Eliot depicts the journey as a difficult one—“A cold coming we had of it . . . a hard time . . .” the poem begins. The poem describes the hardships the wise men might have faced in traveling [over mountains!] to see the Christ child.

The poem ends asking the question “were we led all that way for Birth, or Death?? Out of their difficult journey comes the death of their old ways and a birth of new beliefs.

This past year First Lutheran Church experienced the departure of a pastor and now, the coming of an interim pastor. For many of you personally 2017 was a journey that had its share of deaths and of births, of hardships and of joys. Each step along the way may have been an epiphany of sorts—a “revealing,” a “discovery,” a “disclosure.”

As people of faith, we see each step along the way answering our questions more clearly. Who is Christ for us in our lives beyond a baby in a manger? Who are we supposed to be as a people of God? What is our mission as we move forward into transformation? The journey of revelation can be a difficult one.

Our weekly Sunday Bible readings during this season of Epiphany will focus on answering the question, “Who is Jesus?” Who is he for us, for our family, for our church, for our society, for our world? What impact does his life and ministry have on us? And by epiphanies—answers to these questions—we will better understand who we are and WHOSE we are. Epiphany reveals to us we belong to the Lord!

As my time with you is half-time, I will need to carefully choose what tasks I might do among you and how to budget my time. My plan for visiting, to save time, is to practice a “drop-in” method. If you are not home I will leave a note saying how you can get in touch with me if you desire a return visit. If you are home, but the time is not good for a visit, we can make future plans for another time. If you do not wish to receive a pastoral visit at all, that is okay too. I will always have communion elements with me and any one visited may receive home communion while I am there whether or not you have been to church lately!

Along the road of this New Year, we WILL meet the Christ child in each other and we will rejoice and give thanks! God’s epiphany is ever new, ever revealing, ever helping us to understand whose we are, why we are, and where we are going.

Peace,

Pastor Susan

Pastor Susan Davenport

Council Meeting - Nov. 14th

Interim Pastor Meeting: Pastor Marilyn Hansen from the Synod met with the executive committee to meet with interim pastoral candidate Pastor Susan Davenport. The council held discussion. It was approved to go into contract (Letter of Agreement for Interim Ministry) with Susan Davenport beginning on Dec. 17th.

Treasurer's Report: Report approved

Youth & Family Ministry: FLUBBER is done for the semester and plans to do better next semester need to be discussed. More help is needed to continue to make this a successful community program. Preparations for the Houston Youth Gathering are ongoing. About \$600 was raised from the spaghetti dinner and WELCA is donating the December Bake Sale funds to the youth.

Christian Education: Looked over the budget and worked on Operation Christmas Child boxes that the Leo Club was collecting. Christmas program practice is underway. Thank you to FLAG for buying the pizzas for the lunch after practice on Dec. 9th. The next high school overtime event will be held on January 19th.

Evangelism & Social Ministry: The committee has mailed out 35 cards for their card ministry, Nancy Plautz has volunteered to join in the card ministry. Held the last quarterly family game nights on Friday, November 3rd. The 'Giving Tree' collected many hats, gloves/mittens, socks, scarves, etc. that were divided between the Prophetstown Elementary and Tampico Elementary schools. October's lucky seat winner was Sharon Anderson, and the November lucky seat winner was Bob Anderson. The committee also worked on busy bags and their annual report.

Property: Through donations of equipment, a medical kit was put together and placed in the bottom of the sound cabinet in the sanctuary to be used as needed. The committee also talked about creating a policy to follow when a medical emergency occurs, as well as security measures.

Stewardship & Finance: The committee worked on the budget and lined up faith talks. The generosity cover letter, time & talent sheet and pledge card have gone out.

Worship and Music: Chose hymns for January. The Christmas Eve service will remain at 7p.m. Worship will be switching from narrative lectionary to Sundays and Seasons.

New Business: The committees each looked over their areas of the budget during their individual meetings. As a council, the budget was discussed and changed as needed. The council decided to hold a special offering for two weeks to support Paul & Tonya Cocking, who were recently affected by the wildfires.

Meeting closed with prayer.

November Financial Report

Beginning	\$	4,206.42
Deposits		12,500.23
Disbursements	-	13,413.34
Transfer to Building	-	218.00
Correction	-	0.00
Balance	\$	3,075.31

Church Meetings: Tuesday, Jan. 9th

Committee Meetings @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

December Prayer Concerns

Stan Urban, Burdette Sandrock, Carole & Dick Minssen, Michelle Wetzell, Peggy Kuelper, 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, 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

Prayers to Bishop Jeffrey & Paulette Clements and Pastor Nathan & Emily Clements on the passing of the Bishop's mother Gloria Clements. She passed away on Saturday, December 16th in Sterling.

Prayers to Rod & Linda Copeland on the passing of Rod's father Francis Copeland. He passed away on Sunday, December 17th

Prayers to Sandy Plautz, Becky & Drew Emery and families on the passing of Sandy's brother Jim Lear. He passed away in an accident in Orlando, FL on Wednesday, December 20th.

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.

Pastoral Acts

January – December 2017

Baptisms

5-7-17 Oliver David Blumenshine

6-27-17 Rubey Gallentine

First Communion:

4-13-17

Kennedy Buck

Owen Farral

Confirmed:

10-29-17

Rubey Gallentine

Dawson Haggard

Max Jones

Sydney Minssen

Wedding:

10-21-17

Aurelie Francis & Patrick Gerlach

Funerals

2-8-2017 Anna G. Wheat

2-22-2017 Janice Burress

3-3-2017 Sierra Burress

3-21-2017 Patrick L. Hinrichs

7-31-2017 Virgil F. Plautz

9-7-2017 Linna Joyce Naftzger

9-15-2017 June Swanson

11-6-2017 Loretta Bohnert

11-22-2017 Lillian V. Parker

Men in Mission

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

Christmas Program

Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas program on December 10th a success. With the help of many people, the sanctuary looked beautiful, and the whole worship service was such a blast! Kids, parents, and teachers all worked hard on songs, readings, and a skit. Thank you to Christa Robshaw for

organizing the program, Cathy Hinrichs and Jeanne Frank for leading music, the Proeger family for the tree and swags, the teachers for leading Sunday School and for crowd control, and all others who helped with decorations, child care, food and everything else to make sure the story of Jesus' birth was PROCLAIMED! The congregations support was evident in the number of people in the pews that day-it was amazing to see so many family & friends worshipping together! Thank you for the opportunity to teach these young people about God and help them grow in their faith.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3rd. This will be a retreat day. Starting at 1:00 p.m. and continuing until 7:30 p.m. Mentors will meet with the class at 6:00 p.m. Classes will continue weekly through January.

WELCA

The general meeting followed by a Bible Study will be held on Monday, January 8th 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 Rosemary Sibley.

Sign-up Sheets for 2018 are on the narthex table at church for you to lend your time and talents for the year. Assisting Ministers, Greeters, Ushers, WELCA.

Thank You

The family of Loretta Bohnert would like to thank everyone for the kind thoughts, words and cards. She is now in heaven reuniting with all who have proceeded her and free from pain. Again, thank you for remembering Mother.

Sincerely,

Barb & Wayne Proeger, Pam Kester and families

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

Avis Chamberlain – 28th

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

Youth Ski Day

Get out all of you winter weather gear, it's time to ski! The annual Northern IL Synod Jr. and Sr. High ski trip will once again be held on Martin Luther King Jr Day on January 15, 2018 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 by January 10th if you want to attend this event. Money is due day of event. It is always a fun time, both on the slopes and in the lodge!

Assisting in January

Ushers

Orval Johnson

Reid Johnson

Ron Johnson

Greeters

Mark & Gayle Melton

Gary & Cathy Hinrichs

Altar Committee

Sharon Anderson
Anna Woolums
Denise Cady

Assisting Minister

21 – Marilyn Melton

Cantor

Donna Roland

Readers

7 – Heather Vahle
14 – Taylor Robshaw
21 – Bob Bohms
28 – Lelia Gibson

Acolytes

7 – Max Vahle
14 – Tinley Wetzell
21 – Liam Johnson
28 – Jackson Minssen

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.



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