

First Lutheran Church

300 W. 3rd St. Prophetstown, IL 61277

Phone: 815-537-2758

Newsletter - June, 2017

The Holy Spirit is on the Loose!

It's June! School is out. The graduations are over. The fields are planted (hopefully by now), and the busyness that always seems to come just before Memorial Day are now things of the past. It doesn't mean that our days are less filled. They are just different. As we transition into the summer season here at First, our regular ministries might be on the long pause of summer, but God is definitely at work here in the life of the congregation. Starting on June 7th, we begin our third annual Feed My Children campaign where we provide free lunches to school age children every Wednesday and Friday throughout the summer. The High School and Middle School will be participating in Summer Stretch, where they will commit one day a week for 4 weeks to serve in the community, participate in Bible Study and enjoy fun activities. Then there is the youth group teambuilding and leadership training trip to Montana that leaves on June 24th. On Father's Day, not only am I looking forward to a blessing for the Fathers, we will also be having a blessing of the bicycles and other wheeled things that day as well! I'm also looking forward to attending Synod Assembly on June 16-17, where I will hear what the Holy Spirit has been up to in our synod this past year. And don't forget to come on June 25 where we will be having a blessing for travelers.

So as our lives take on a different pace this summer, I encourage you to not to put your faith on the long pause of summer too. The Holy Spirit is on the loose, and if we take a break and stop paying attention to what God is up to, we will totally miss out on seeing God at work in the world. Therefore, I invite anyone who is interested in revitalizing your faith and seeing what God is up to in the world to join me on Sundays after worship for discussion and reflection using the book "Living Lutheran" by Dave Daubert. *We will start on Sunday, June 4th after worship and continue on for the next 8 weeks (with the exception being June 25 as I will be on the Youth Trip to Montana.)* The last meeting will be July 30th. Whether or not you read the book, I encourage you to come. Whether or not you can make all 8 discussions, I encourage you to come. All generations are welcome. You can order the book on line or you can pick up a copy from me. The task of becoming better disciples starts one life at a time, and the process begins with us.

Let us pray, God of the Word, we know that you have spoken in many and various ways through the prophets of old. But now you speak to us in these last days through the word made flesh in Jesus. The voice of Christ has come to us in scripture and through the words of others and often we have been too busy to hear. Speak to us now. Help us to listen. Amen.

In Faithful Service,
Pastor Katie

Next Church Meetings

Tuesday, June 13th

Committee Meetings @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

FLC May Prayer Concerns

Peggy Kuelper, Betty Reichard, Jan Carlson, Michelle Wetzell, Dick & Carole Minssen, Connie Johnson, Evelyn "Evie" Kline great granddaughter of Bob & Geri Cassens, Art Buckner cousin of Darlene Proeger, 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 Helmkamp fiancée of Kent Olsen, Max Sampson grandson of Darrel & Glenda Sampson.

Our prayers go out to Darlene & Dale Proeger and family on the passing of Darlene's uncle Franklin D. Goering on Saturday, April 29th.

Our prayers go out to former members Marilyn, Amy, Penny, Ed and Melody Beach on the passing of their husband and father Burt Beach on Thursday, May 18th in Houma, LA.

What should I know about the sending of Communion?

"The friends of Jesus remembered his promise to be with them in the special meal. On Sundays they met in a home. They brought food for the special meal and for the poor. They sang songs, told stories about Jesus, prayed for the whole world, and shared greetings of peace. Then a leader gave thanks to God and broke the bread into pieces. All ate the bread and drank from the cup. They were happy because Jesus was with them. Jesus kept his promise. Everyone shouted, "Amen!" After the meal, the thankful people left the house carrying extra bread. They brought the bread to the sick. They also brought the bread to all who did not have enough to eat because they were poor. The friends of Jesus also showed God's love in many other ways." Dan Erlander- "A Place for You" pg. 10

The sending of communion extends the assembly's service of Holy Communion by sending lay ministers from the assembly, bearing the gifts of God's word and sacramental meal to those who are unable to be present in public worship. This ministry offers these people (such as those who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned) a means of participating in the worship of the whole assembly, and it helps those who have gathered publicly to recognize their oneness with sisters and brothers who are absent.

We have just recently trained volunteers for this ministry here at First. If you would like to be a part of this team or would like a team member to visit you, please contact Pastor Katie at (630)200-3288.

1. The sending of communion is an extension of the feast celebrated by the community on Sunday.
2. It is not a recreation of the meal. It is not a new meal that is newly consecrated.
3. It is Jesus' presence found in community in the homes of those who cannot be present at the community, but are part of the community nonetheless.
4. The ordained minister of Christ is set a part within the community to officiate or preside over the sacraments regularly for the community.
5. All of us are set apart by our baptism into Christ to see that all who are separated from the community experience the actions of the community.
6. Communion is only appropriate when set with in the context of the community and only as an extension of the community to those who are apart from the community. This means it's not a private event nor should it be celebrated after regular family meals outside the congregation.

Anatomy of a visit

1. Contact the person you are visiting to let them know you are coming.
2. Make sure you have the communion elements with you and Sunday's bulletin.
3. Greet the person with a handshake or a hug.
4. Share your highs and lows with each other.
5. Give the person the bulletin and read the scripture lessons for the day.
6. Talk with each other about how you have experienced God this week.
7. Pray with the person you are visiting. You may use the prayers in the bulletin or you may pray spontaneously using your highs and lows as a guide.
8. Give the person Holy Communion: (*using the Sending of Communion liturgy.*)
9. Bless the person saying this, or similar words, "Remember you are a Baptized child of God.
10. Contact Pastor Katie afterwards and let her know how the visit went.



Congratulations to Our 2017 Graduates

High School

McKenzie Hinrichsen, Madi Purvis, Lexi Rangel, Corrin Sonnenberg

PLT Middle School

Samantha Celestino, Rubey Gallentine, Dawson Haggard, Max Jones, Sydney Minssen

College Graduates

Stephanie Emery, Riley Meyer, Jake Plautz, Daniel Proeger, Annie Sandrock
Kellie Plautz Larrabee

If there are any other graduates, on any level, please call the church office and we will make sure to include you in the next newsletter.

Feed Our Children

We are gearing up for Feed our Children again this summer! Last year we served 609 meals! We will be at Eclipse Square for distribution, and hope to serve even more meals this year. First Lutheran Church, Prophetstown Methodist Church and Congregational Church will be working together again with volunteer efforts to serve on Wednesdays and Fridays. We will start on Wed June 7, and will continue each Wednesday and Friday until Wed. August 9. Please consider volunteering to make and serve the meals. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex starting May 7. Let's make this year another success!

FLY Summer Trip

Please pray for our high school youth and adults going on the FLY trip to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp June 24-July 1. We will be focusing on group bonding, team building, and leadership skills, as well as fully experiencing God's creation around us. I would encourage you to come to church the night before we leave, Friday June 23, at 7:30pm to help us start our trip by blessing the vehicles we will travel in. This has been an important part of our "trip rituals" for a few years now, and it means a lot to know we have been covered in prayer at the start of our adventure. We hope to see you there!

Community Vacation Bible School

Mega Sports Camp will be held at the Methodist Church on Monday, July 31st through Friday, August 4th.

Summer Stretch

For All Middle & High School Youth

Tues. 6-6, Tues. 6-20, Tues. 7-11, Wed. 7-26. Each day begins at 9:00 a.m. For more details please talk with Amanda.

The Lucky Seat

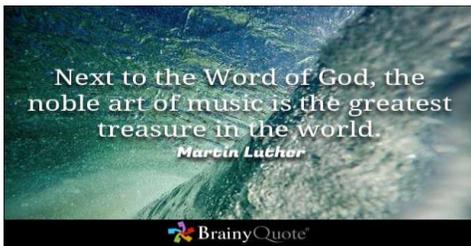
The Evangelism & Social Ministry Committee would like to congratulate Arnold Frank upon winning the April Lucky Seat incentive and Taylor Robshaw for finding the Lucky Golden Egg during the Easter Egg Hunt. Who will be the Lucky Seat recipient in May? On a random Sunday morning each month the committee will give a gift to the Lucky Seat person as a way of reminding everyone that you are welcome and loved here at FLC.

Family Game Night

The next Family Game night will be held on Friday, June 9th, sponsored by the Evangelism Committee. Please plan to join us for an evening of fun from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the church basement. Bring your favorite game if you like (or play one of ours) and a favorite snack to share. See you there!

Make a Joyful Noise

Our congregation is blessed with a great deal of musical talent. Please feel welcome to share your gift. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex with open dates for this summer. Just pick a date that is convenient for you. Please contact Jeanne at bfjf882@frontier.com with any questions.



Worship Feedback

The Worship Committee would like to help make worship more meaningful for you. To help you share your feedback, there is a “suggestion sack” in the narthex. Let us know what you’d like to sing, what you’d like more of (or less of).

WELCA

The general meeting will follow a bible study on Monday, May 8th at 1:30 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Riverview Estates. All women members of the church are invited. The hostess will be Glenda Sampson. Bible leader will be Pastor Katie.

Amazing Race of Grace

The Amazing Race of Grace will be going on again this summer, but just a little differently. Instead of everyone getting a folder at the beginning of the summer, we’ll be emailing it out. This way, we can have everything online also, so it is easy to access. Did you forget your folder at home? No worries! You can access the files from your phone! We look forward to spending another summer in creative faith formation with you. Don’t forget about the Kickoff on Sunday June 4 1-4pm! We have an exciting scavenger hunt planned for you, as well as ice cream Sundays!

Adopt-A-Highway: 20 Years Recognition and Clean-up

FLC has been recognized by IL Transportation Secretary Randy Blakenhorn for our 20 years of service with the Adopt-A-Highway program. To commemorate all the honored groups a redbud tree was planted at the IL Dept. of Transportation headquarters in Springfield. Blakenhorn said “Our Adopt-A-Highway volunteers give hours of personal time and effort to ensure IL roads are well kept and free of hazardous items. Your commitment is inspiring, meaningful and truly valued.”

The FLC crew along with the Summer Stretch youth will meet at church on Tuesday, June 6th at 9:00 a.m. Clean-up is on Rt. 78 between the Rock River and the Lyndon stop light. All adults are invited to meet at church and join our crew. Next clean-up dates for adults in the summer are on Thursdays: August 10th and October 12th.

Thank you to all of our amazing crews over the years who have helped to keep “The Pike” clean!

Thank You

Thank you for supporting the Jr. League and FLY for their fundraising efforts recently! The rummage/plant sale for Jr League and the breakfast for FLY both had good profits, so thank you so much for donating your items and plants and baked goods! Thank you also if you bought anything at the sale or came and shared breakfast with us. And as always, we truly appreciate and thank you for your prayers. Your support of these groups is so special, and the experiences we have together because of your support mean so much to us. Thank you so much. Blessings!

N. IL. Synod Assembly

The Synod Assembly will be held on June 16th and 17th at Augustana College Rock Island. The In-Kind offering will be smoke/carbon monoxide detectors and gift cards, in any amount, to help LSSI with the foster care services.

For complete details go to their websites: nisynod.org and/or lssi.org

June 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.

Marilyn Melton – 7th

Kent Gibson – 9th

Marlene Scott – 16th

Ken Cocking – 17th

June Swanson – 19th

Curt Plautz – 21st

Burnell Howlett – 30th

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

Central Conference Reformation 500 Gathering

Sunday, October 15th at 2:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sterling, IL. A presentation followed by worship with Bishop Jeffrey Clements and featuring a Reformation Hymn-Sing. This an opportunity to celebrate together the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Assisting in June

Ushers

Gary & Cathy Hinrichs, Vicki Ottens

Greeters

Burnell & Illene Howlett, Karen Buck

Altar Committee

Jeanne Frank, Rosemary Sibley, Diane Jones

Assisting Minister

18 – Ken Cocking, Marilyn Melton

Cantor

Paul McCracken: 6-4, 6-11, 6-18

Randy Roland: 6-25

Readers

4 - Taylor Robshaw

11 – Bob Bohms

18 – Paul McCracken

25 – Charlene Hanson

Acolytes

4 - Emyli Sandroek

11 – Sabrina Soleta

18 – Max Vahle

25 – 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



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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