

# First Lutheran Church

300 West Third Street Prophetstown, IL 61277

Phone: 815-537-2758

*Newsletter for Members & Friends*

*March, 2017*



## Walking Dusty

March 1<sup>st</sup> is, (or was, depending on when you read this), Ash Wednesday. This is when our journey through Lent begins. Our Lenten road is often long and dusty. It is on this journey that we reflect on those who have gone before and those who will come after. We identify with the hurt and the pain. We live in the messiness that comes with the often dirty road that we must travel. Let us also remember that it is this dust we call life that shapes and forms us into resurrection people. Just as we walk wet in recognition of our baptism and the promise that it holds, I encourage you this year to walk dusty too. Remember that in the brokenness, we are healed. While the journey is long and tiresome, resurrection promises are greater. In our dusty walk we claim the promise of new sandals and clean garments. As we walk dusty, we remember that we have come from dust and to dust we shall return. May our Sunday worship during lent be an oasis for you as you hear the stories of the Good Samaritan, Jesus Lament over Jerusalem, the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin, The Rich Man and Lazarus, Zacchaeus and finally the story of the Passion of Christ! May these stories of grace, forgiveness, compassion, mercy, generosity and love feed you and empower you to walk dusty; remembering where you came from and live wet; reminding you that you are a baptized child of God.

A companion on the Journey,

Pastor Katie



## FLC Lenten Worship Series: Luther's Small Catechism

Join us at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays during lent for worship with a rotation of our conference pastors leading us. This year marks the international observance of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. In honor of that anniversary, our midweek Lenten series for this year is built around Luther's Small Catechism while using Holden's Evening Prayer. The Small Catechism was designed as a teaching tool of the faith, not just within the church but in the home. Luther intended for the home to be the place where faith was first shared and taught. To that end he created the Small Catechism: as simple explanation of the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Sacraments. He included basic prayers for morning and evening and suggested ways to worship, praise, and revere God during each part of our day.

## January Financial Report

Beginning .....	\$ 10,619.19
Deposits .....	25,206.92
Disbursements .....	- 18,745.13
Correction .....	- 0.01
<b>Balance .....</b>	<b>\$ 17,080.99</b>

## Next Church Meetings

Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

Committee Meetings – 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting – 8:00 p.m.

## Online Giving to FLC

Please use [www.firstlutheran-ptown.org](http://www.firstlutheran-ptown.org) to give through the company VanCo. You choose the options on your account.

## **FLC February Prayer Concerns**

Dick & Carole Minssen, Amber Davis, Sally Johnson, Betty Reichard, Patrick Hinrichs, Connie Johnson, Viola Powell, 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 Anna Wheat on February 5<sup>th</sup>, mother of Denny Wheat and Linda Klooster.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Holy Communion Classes**

Holy Communion instruction for fifth graders will be held on Mar. 19 and 26, and April 2 at 10:30 - Noon. Their First Communion will be at 9:00 a.m. worship on Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> followed by a reception in the students honor. Please join us in congratulating them in this milestone.

## **FLC Lent Dinners**

It's that time of year when we roll up our sleeves and get busy serving Lenten Dinners! Dinners are served weekly on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Each group will work as a team to do a whole dinner, for approximately 50 people.

Mar 1: FLY/Jr. League – Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Soup, Veggies/dip, Chips

Mar 8: Property/Evangelism – BBQ, Applesauce Jello, Veggies/dip, Chips

Mar 15: WELCA – Easy Au Gratin Potatoes. Rolls, Veggies/dip

Mar 22: FLAG - Pasta Bar (variety of sauces, noodles), Tossed Salad, Bread

Mar 29: Education/Stewardship - Taco Bar (tacos and taco salad), Fruit

Apr 5: Worship & Music - Baked Spaghetti, Bread, Fruit/dip

The meal lists and recipes are available at church. Each group is responsible for purchasing the ingredients for their dinner. If the group wishes to make something different, make sure the church is notified. Each group will be in charge of cooking the meal, set up, serving, drinks, desserts, and clean up. Please discuss this with your group and plan your dinner. Thanks for your support, skills and service!

## **FLC Lenten Worship Series:**

### **Luther's Small Catechism**

Join us at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays during lent for worship with one of our conference pastors leading us.

Mar. 1: Ash Wednesday Worship Service - Pastor Katie Gallagher–FLC, Prophetstown

Mar. 8: Ten Commandments - Pastor Bob Burton – Bethesda Lutheran, Morrison

Mar. 15: Lord's Prayer - Pastor Brandon Nelson – St. Paul Lutheran, Sterling

Mar. 22: Baptism – Interim Pastor Vicki Sauter – Immanuel Lutheran, Rock Falls

Mar. 29: The Creed – Interim Pastor Dan Stalker – Trinity Lutheran, Manlius

Apr. 5: Holy Communion - Pastor Katie

## **Lent Devotions**

Are you looking for interesting devotional material or a "daily challenge" devotion for Lent? Here's two for you to consider: LECFamily's photo-a-day devotion, and Lent Lettering. On the website [lecfamily.org/lent](http://lecfamily.org/lent), you can sign up for a daily devotion that centers on a specific word. You are encouraged to take or find a picture that represents that word, and contemplate what this word means to you. The Facebook page for Lent Lettering, they combine music and art/writing into a personal devotion experience. Each day has a song for you to listen to, and during/after listening, you write words and images that stuck out to you during the song. These are only 2 types of devotions. We hope that if you find any that are meaningful to you, that you will share them with us!

## **Community Lent Services**

Community Lenten services will be held at 12:00 noon on Wednesdays during lent. Following the service, a light meal of sustenance soup, bread and water will be offered. This is a simple meal for those who might be observing the discipline of fasting. The schedule is as follows:

Mar. 8: Congregational Church

Mar. 15: Leon Methodist Church

Mar. 22: First Lutheran Church

Mar. 29: Prophetstown Methodist Church

Apr. 5: Fenton Methodist Church

## **FLC Holy Week Services**

April 9: Palm Sunday – 9:00 a.m. First Communion for fifth graders will be celebrated followed by a reception in the fellowship hall in honor of the students.

April 13: Maundy Thursday - 7:00pm: Ecumenical Worship with Holy Communion at Methodist Church

April 14: Good Friday – 7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Worship service here FLC

April 16: Easter – 7:00 a.m. Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Congregational Church with breakfast to Follow 9:00 a.m. Worship and Communion at FLC



**October 31, 1517**

**Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to the north door of Wittenberg's castle.**

This year we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this historic event, the beginnings of the Lutheran Church. Please watch for events and information to commemorate the life and works of Martin Luther and the history of the Lutheran faith.

## **Reformation 500 Challenge Bowl**

Our First Lutheran team bested the team of Pastors Roger Asplund and David Schweppe in the final round of the Saturday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Challenge Bowl. The real winner, of course, is LSSI with over \$250 raised for programming at the Nachusa Lutheran Home. Questions were prepared by Pastors Brant Clements (also the moderator) and David Nelson.

## **Safeguarding God's Children**

The FLC Evangelism & Social Ministry Committee will be hosting a three-hour training session in 'Safeguarding God's Children' on Sat. March 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon. This three hour training session lead by Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann will cover topics such as: how perpetrators of abuse gain access to children, warning signs in adults, warning signs in children, and steps to take to keep ministries safe. The training session is offered free of charge through the Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA and is a great training tool for all who work with children in the community and congregation. You may register by calling First Lutheran Church at (815) 537-2758 or by email at: [pastorkatie2002@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorkatie2002@yahoo.com)

## **Our church is having a Book Fair!**

Looking for that perfect Easter gift for your kids or grandkids? Stop by our Book Fair and shop award-winning Bibles, books, and videos for kids. Save up to 50% plus free shipping on all titles. Stop by the Narthex on March 12, 19, 26 after worship to get faith-filled books and videos for your kids. Our church will earn 20% of the proceeds to go towards curriculum or other resources! Our Book Fair, sponsored by Sparkhouse Family, is designed to help parents and other faith mentors instill an open-hearted, transformational, lifelong Christian faith in children at every age and stage.

## **A message from Amanda**

A few years ago, I was struggling with what to "give up" for Lent. Why should I even do it? Do I have to give up something? I decided to ask a pastor friend what was behind giving something up for Lent. He basically told me this: It's not a requirement to give anything up for Lent. It is a reminder of the fasting that Jesus did in the desert, and of the suffering He endured on the cross. But that's not the whole point. What you do or don't do during Lent (or anytime) should bring you closer to God. What is keeping you from true relationship with God? The time of Lent is time of self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love. I recently saw a flow chart about what to give up for Lent. It had some good humor in it, but really gave great suggestions. Do you know of something specifically that is leading you to sin or turn away from God? Give it up. Can you add more prayer time? Add it in. Can you find more silent times? Cut out the noise. Can you be a better witness of God's love? Show it. (If none of these pertain to you, go ahead and give up chocolate!) I pray that we will all have a blessed Lenten season, and that whatever you take out or add in to your lives will truly bring you closer to God.

## **WELCA**

The general meeting will follow a bible study on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Men in Mission & Video Study**

Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

The evening video study for men on the series "Walking With Jesus in a Weird World" from Man in the Mirror Ministries begins the first of six sessions on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Come and learn more about yourself, your role with Christ and with men like you. For information contact Dave Meyer at 563-650-6149 or email at [ptowndave54@yahoo.com](mailto:ptowndave54@yahoo.com).

## **EPIC Hour**

Please join us after worship for EPIC Hour! EPIC stands for every person in Christ- so EVERYONE is welcome no matter if you come by yourself or with a group. We are learning about what treasure is to us as Christians. Matthew 6:21 says- "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Ask any of the people who have been coming, and I bet they can do the motions for you! As adults, we tend to forget the joy and wonder that we had during our Sunday School days. You'll get it back singing songs and participating in activities with the kids. As kids, we can get lost in stories that seem out of touch or hard to understand. That's what the adults are there for- to use their experience and knowledge to help the youth connect these stories to their lives. We share in the responsibility of teaching by being together in many ages and stages. Come have fun and learn great Bible stories with us at EPIC Hour- you won't want to leave!

## **Youth Summer Trip**

Please begin lifting up in prayer our team that is going to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp this summer. 4 adults and 8 high school youth will be traveling at the end of June, waaay up north for this amazing outdoor experience. We will be doing a lot of teambuilding and leadership training, as well as experiencing God in a beautiful outdoor setting. We will be doing ropes courses, sailing, visiting Glacier National Park, and rafting, as well as enjoying lots of activities at camp. We are going to try to do some "training" before we go at some area state parks, and anyone who wishes to join us is welcome! Thank you for your support of these wonderful kids (and adults.) It is such a blessed feeling knowing that we are so loved by this congregation! (An interesting fact: Nathan Clements is an associate director at FLBC!)

## **March 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.

Merle Strike – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Joyce Naftzger – 24<sup>th</sup>  
Ruth Bartlett – 24<sup>th</sup>  
Geri Cassens – 27<sup>th</sup>

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

**Assisting in March**

**Ushers:**

Curt & Nancy Cruse,  
Mark Melton  
Gary Hinrichs

**Greeters:**

Dale & Darlene Proeger  
Paul & Charlene McCracken

**Altar Committee:**

Joan Johnson  
Jodi Farral  
Karen Buck

**Assisting Minister:**

19 – Rick Woolums

**Cantor:**

Marilyn Melton

**Readers**

1 - Judy Johnson  
5 – Ellen Pannier  
8 - Aaron Johnson  
12 – Hannah Schanze  
15 – Rosemary Sibley  
19 – Orval Johnson  
22 – Randy Roland  
26 – Heide Gallagher  
29 – Donna Roland

**Acolytes**

1 - Max Vahle  
5 – Tinley Wetzell  
8 - Rubey Gallentine  
12 – Dawson Haggard  
15 – Max Jones  
19 – Sydney Minssen  
22 – Nate Gallagher  
26 – Jacob Malone  
29 – Connor Sandroock

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

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