

First Lutheran Church

300 W. 3rd St. Prophetstown, IL 61277

Phone: 815-537-2758

Newsletter - May, 2017



“They devoted themselves to the Apostles’ Teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the Bread and the Prayers.” Acts 2:42

On Sunday mornings, especially when we celebrate Holy Communion, I am aware that there are some in our faithful community that are notably absent. My awareness focuses not so much on those who are out of town or engaged in another commitment that conflicts with the time of worship, though I do think of them as well. But mostly I think of those in our midst who are sick or homebound and therefore not able to be part of the faith community. I do my best to visit them monthly and bring them the Holy Sacrament, but I wish I could do it more often. Partaking in Holy Communion is something that should be celebrated often. It’s part of our core values as a congregation (that we are gathered by Word and Sacrament), and it is something that should be celebrated regularly and as often as possible. Therefore, I struggle finding ways to get Holy Communion to our shut-ins more than once a month.

Lately, the Holy Spirit has been reminding me that I am not alone in doing the ministry of the Church. In fact, if you read the second chapter of Acts, we get a glimpse of what the early church was like and how they all worked together in ministering to the community and each other. Dan Erlander summarized this community perfectly in his Holy Communion instruction book entitled, “A Place for You.” On page 10 he states:

“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.”

Two things came to mind when I read Acts.

1. Taking care of the sick and elderly is not a one-person job.
2. You don’t have to be a pastor to take communion to an absent follower of Christ!

We here at FLC have an opportunity to model the First Century Church by incorporating a visitation team into its ministry. **On Sunday, May 21st after church,** I would like to meet with anyone who is a confirmed member of this church and would like to explore with me about what a visitation team here at FLC could look like.

It is my hope that someday soon when we gather here in our sanctuary on Sunday mornings and celebrate the special meal of Jesus, we will be able to include this prayer after we have all been fed.

Sending of Communion – ELW pg. 114 *Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this or a similar prayer of sending...* Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother’s tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Faithfully leading and feeding our flock,

Pastor Katie Gallagher

March Financial Report

Beginning	\$ 13,011.02
Deposits	12,115.06
Disbursements	– 14,942.11
Correction	– 0.01
Balance	\$ 10,183.98

Next Church Meetings

Tuesday, May 2nd

Committee Meetings @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

FLC April Prayer Concerns

Betty Reichard, Peggy Kuelper, Jan Carlson, Michelle Wetzell, Dick & Carole Minssen, Amber Davis, Connie Johnson, Harry Roland father of Randy Roland, Scott Lyman son-in-law of Ken & Ellen Pannier. Community members: Sammy Hodgett. Serving in the military: 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.

Rediscover Macedonia – A Spirit of Gratitude and Generosity

(A resource of the ELCA)

An Exercise in Stewardship: Writing a Personal Money Autobiography

Writing a personal money autobiography is an important step in expressing one's stewardship journey. The process reveals one's attitudes, behaviors and feelings about money. How does one go about writing a money autobiography? In this activity, it is important to focus on different points in your life (childhood, adolescence, young adult, mature adult, etc.) Take a sheet or two of blank paper and write out your responses to the questions below. Reflect on these experiences and how specific understandings developed. After reflection, you may want to write this into a chronological or topical sequence. Always be aware that money is only one aspect of being a steward.

1. What is the earliest experience with money that you remember?
2. As a child growing up, did you feel rich or poor? Why?
3. What was your attitude toward money as a teenager? How was this influenced by peers or siblings?
4. How were your attitudes and behaviors about money shaped by your mother, father or grandparents?
5. What role did money play in your life as a young adult? How was this influenced by a spouse or co-workers?
6. If applicable, how did your relationship with money change when you became a parent?
7. What is your happiest memory in connection with money?
8. What is your unhappiest memory in connection with money?
9. How does your faith guide you in your use of money?
10. How do you feel about your present financial status compared the past status?
11. How have you discovered that financial health is an expression of faith?
12. Are you generous or stingy with your money? In what ways?
13. How do you practice proportionate giving and tithing?
14. When are you willing to give to the church and other causes with no strings attached?
15. What kinds of risks are you willing to take with your money?
16. What will you do with your money as you approach the end of this life?

Baccalaureate Service – May 21st

The Prophetstown Area Ministerial Association invites all graduating High School seniors, their family and friends to a worship service on Sunday, May 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church.

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!

We will be collecting jars of *creamy* peanut butter and *grape* jelly and/or jam again this year for our Feed our Children summer lunch program. Please bring them to church on Sunday May 14, Mother's Day. We will use these all summer long, so we need a lot - especially since we are serving Wednesdays and Fridays. Any jars that don't get used will be donated to the Prophetstown Food Pantry.

Men in Mission: Sunday, May 7th at 7:30 a.m. all men, members of the church or not, are welcome to join us for breakfast, bible study and discussion on how we can live out our belief in God every day.

Garage Sale

Do you have extra stuff at your house? Clothes, furniture, jewelry, decorations, books, kitchen utensils/appliances, toys, movies... Jr League would love to accept these (and more) as donations for their annual garage sale! They use this garage sale to raise money to offset cost of a trip every year. Because of your donations, (and purchases) we usually raise around \$900 after a donation to the Food Pantry. Please look around and see what you might be able to part with. The sale is Saturday, May 13th, and we have started accepting donations. Please note- we will **not** be accepting TVs this year. Please call the church and talk to Amanda if you have questions or need help getting your items to church. Thanks to everyone!

FLY Breakfast Fundraiser serving on Town Garage Sale Day

To help raise funds for our trip this summer, FLY will be serving breakfast the morning of the town garage sales, Saturday, May 13th. We will serve biscuits and gravy, eggs, and a variety of baked goods. Drinks will also be provided. Cost is by donation. The meal will be served 7-10am. We are asking the congregation for donations of baked goods. If you could donate breakfast type sweet treats (coffee cakes, donuts, pastries, etc) please contact Amanda. Thank you for all of your generous support of our youth!

Plant Sale: In conjunction with the Jr League Garage sale

We will be having a plant sale again this year. I know lots of you "green-thumbers" out there will be looking at their gardens this spring and thinking about what to add or move or get rid of. Many plants can be divided, and spring is a very good time to do it! If you are interested in donating plants to the plant sale, please contact Amanda. She will coordinate with you on how and when to bring in your plants.

Amazing Race of Grace

Amazing Race of Grace will be offered once again to the congregation. Kickoff will be June 4th at 1-3pm, with ice cream sundaes! This free program will go throughout the summer, offering unique ways to grow faith with your family. Please contact Amanda for a Race Booklet, and to register for the kickoff. We're looking forward to playing in faith with you this summer!

Let's See Red on Pentecost-May 15

If you would like to help beautify the sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday with red flowering plants please complete a form at church or call the office. Our local florist will deliver your plants, or you may purchase and deliver your own plant.

You may take your plant home following worship just be sure it has a name tag. If you prefer to leave your plants here they will be planted outside around the church sign. Please have your plants to church by Saturday, May 14th at 9:00 a.m. for the altar committee to decorate the altar.

Thank You

From The Family of Patrick Hinrichs,

Our hearts are full of gratitude when we say many thanks to our church family for all acts of kindness and sympathy: food, flowers, gifts, memorials, cards, visits and kind words spoken to our family during Patrick's illness and since his passing. They meant more than you can imagine.

Thank you to Pastor Katie for her words of comfort, to those that participated in the funeral service, and to the ladies of the church for the wonderful luncheon following the service. We greatly appreciate all that everyone did to make his celebration of life so very special.

*Patrick will always be in our hearts, and we know he is walking and celebrating with our Lord and Savior.
God Bless You All,
Gary & Cathy Hinrichs
Sarah & Chris Vacanti, Lucas, Allie
Staci & Nic Lenox*

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.

May 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.

Arnold Frank – 14th
Gene Sweeney – 18th
Don Bartlett – 22nd

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

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

United Christians of Prophetstown

On Sunday, May 7th at 4:00 p.m. there will be a community worship service at the Catholic Church. Following the service on *Living by Prayer* there will be a light supper.

About Martin Luther

In the Middle Ages, the liturgy was said only by the celebrant and hymns sung only by the choir. Luther changed all this by introducing a congregational hymnbook in 1524, adding strength to his doctrine of the priesthood of all believers. Luther's good friend once said: "Luther is good at everything: the wonder of mankind; for whatever he says, or writes, it penetrates the heart, and makes a lasting impression. Martin Luther made such a name for himself that 50 years after his death Shakespeare created his character Hamlet, a student at Wittenberg University, the same university where Luther taught.

3-12-1491 – Luther began his education at the Mansfeld Latin School at the age of 7.

10-1492 – nine-year-old Martin Luther sat in Latin class as Christopher Columbus discovered America

1-29- 1499 – Katherine von Bora was born. Martin Luther's future wife.

7-1505 – Luther joined the monastery as a promise after almost struck by lightning.

4-4-1507 – Luther was ordained a priest in the cathedral of Erfurt.

5-2-1507 – Luther celebrated his first Mass in the monastery church in Erfurt.

10-19-1512 – a Doctor of Theology.

10-31-1517 – Luther nailed 95 Theses to the north door of Wittenberg's castle.

5-4-1521 – Luther was captured by "bandits" and taken to safety in Wartburg.

5-8-1521 – Emperor Charles V signed a warrant for Martin Luther's arrest.

8-1-1521 – Martin Luther wrote, "Be a sinner and sin boldly, but let your trust in Christ be more bold."

3-6-1522 – Luther returned to Wittenberg after being disguised at the Wartburg Castle for 11 months. He went directly to the pulpit to preach.

6-13-1525 – Martin & Katherine married.

5-16-1529 – Luther published the Small Catechism.

2-18- 1546 – Luther died in his birth town of Eisleben, Saxony, in modern southeast Germany. He was asked this final question: “Doctor Martin, honored father, do you die in the faith in Christ and in the teachings that you have preached in his name?” Luther’s answer and final words were, “Yes.”

Assisting in May

Ushers

Bob Bohms

Dale Proeger

Darlene Proeger

Greeters

FLAG

Altar Committee

Diane Jones

Connie Johnson

Kerry Meyer

Mary Roland

Assisting Minister

21 – Donna Roland

Amanda Schanze

Cantor

Pastor Katie

Readers

7 - Dave Minssen

14 – Denise Cady

21 – Amy Jones

28 – Kathy Kelly

Acolytes

7 - Sydney Minssen

14 – Nate Gallagher

21 – Jacob Malone

28 – Connor Sandrock

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 – Brenda Wankerl

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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