

# *First Lutheran Church*

300 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Prophetstown, IL 61277

Phone: 815-537-2758

*Newsletter - November, 2017*

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Dear First Lutheran Family,

It is with deep sadness that this must be my final letter to you. As stated in my resignation letter that was sent out to the congregation at the end of August, it is the belief of the elected leadership within our congregation that our members are not connecting with me and that many in our congregation have not been happy with my leadership. I do not agree with their assessment, but respect their decision and want to do what is best for First Lutheran.

I understand the uncertainty that this congregation will be facing and I want to remind you that pastors come and go all the time. The ministry here will go on. In fact, you have much work to do ahead of you especially as you work to better discern the goals and purpose of this congregation that will assist you as you prepare to call a new pastor. Some of you may fear that the church is dying, but I want to assure you that it is not. It is simply changing. In the end, remember that this is God's Church and God always has the final say. And it is good!

Please remember that Sunday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> will be my last day with you. It is especially important to know that when I leave, a line needs to be drawn clearly so that people will know that I am no longer your pastor. While this is painful, it must be done. Your church council is willing to discuss this with you in more detail if you need further clarification.

**THEREFORE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 6, 2017, I CAN NOT ...**

Come back to do funerals or weddings or baptisms

Come back to lead worship services\*\*

Visit you in the hospital

Accept appointments with you\*\*

\*\* The exception to this is that I can be invited back as a "former pastor" to help you celebrate special events (e.g. anniversaries).

In the short time I have been with you I have truly loved being your pastor. I know that God has brought my family here for a reason and it grieves me that we have to part so soon. And while I don't know what the future holds for me, I know who holds the future. I trust our amazing and loving God to heal our brokenness and further equip us for the ministry that all of us have been called to do as we enable others to come to Jesus.

May the grace of our lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

Your Pastor,  
Rev. Katrina (Katie) L. Gallagher

## September Financial Report

Beginning . . . . .	\$	6,378.11
Deposits . . . . .		12,153.60
Disbursements . . . . .	-	14,955.93
Correction . . . . .	-	0.00
<b>Balance . . . . .</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,575.78</b>

## Council Meeting - Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>

**Meeting:** The Council met with Pastor Marilyn Hanson to discuss the steps following Pastor Katie's last day. The council discussed the gifts needed by an interim pastor, and what special things the congregation needs an interim pastor to pay special attention to. At this time, the council decided to fill pulpit supply through 2017, but will revisit this at the November meeting. Pastor Hanson will be leading worship on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. She will be available for questions during fellowship time following the worship service.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sept. report approved

**Pastor's Report:** No Report, Pastor on Vacation

**President's Report:** No Report

**Youth & Family Ministry:** High school Overtime Event on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> was a success with 30 kids attending. Selling Easy as Pie fundraiser. The youth have been greeting and ushering for the month of Oct. Trunk or Treat is coming up on Friday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>. Christmas parade ideas are welcome.

**Christian Education:** No Report

**Evangelism & Social Ministry:** The vendor/craft/ farmer's market event went well. Several have already paid and signed contracts to return next year. The event raised \$985, which was all donated to the roof project.

**Property:** Proposed starting a separate account for the funds raised for the roofing project. Jason will look into it.

**Stewardship & Finance:** Working on filling one more Temple Talk, as well as working on Time & Talent sheets. The committee thanks Pastor Katie for all of her support with the stewardship program.

**Worship and Music:** Chose hymns for December. The committee is working on pulpit supply for November and December.

**Old Business:** Council received tickets to sell for the spaghetti dinner.

Amanda provided updated details for fundraising for the Houston trip. There are now 14 projected attendees. The group needs to raise \$6, 125.

All committees need to have their reports for the budget ready for council approval by the November meeting.

**New Business:** None

Meeting closed with prayer.



**Church Meetings:** Tuesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>

Committee Meetings @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

**Reception for Pastor Katie**

The Council is planning a cake and drink reception for Pastor Katie and family for her last worship service here on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Please attend to wish them well.

## **October Prayer Concerns**

Burdette Sandrock, Sherry Sandrock, Dale Proeger, Carole & Dick Minssen, Ann Deck, Betty Reichard, Peggy Kuelper, Michelle Wetzell, Tammy Fisk Hinrichs niece of Char & Arlyn Ackerman, Annulka Willard daughter of Rosemary & Paul Sibley, Paul & Tanya Cocking son and daughter-in-law of Ken & JoAnne Cocking, 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, Joseph Hickey great nephew of Lelia Gibson.

Prayers to the family of Delores Hinrichs, sister of Milton Olsen, aunt of Gary Hinrichs, on her passing on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **All Saints Sunday – November 5<sup>th</sup>**

On All Saints Sunday we remember those who have passed to God’s eternal kingdom in the past year.

Vicky Meier  
Doug Chamberlain  
Anna Wheat  
Patrick Hinrichs  
Janice Burress  
Sierra Burress  
Virgil Plautz  
Joyce Naftzger  
June Swanson

We thank everyone for the memorial gifts that have been given this year. The names and gifts given in their memory will have a nametag added to the Memory Tree in the Fellowship Hall.

## **First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Generosity**

We are on the final leg of this three year stewardship journey with our attention on generosity and what it means to “give in generosity” as God’s people in Christ.

### **All Congregation Bible Study**

The whole congregation is invited to take part in this faith and discipleship growing conversation following worship in the conference room. One final class is on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Generosity Sunday was October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

On that day 78 Personal Care Kits were packaged and have been delivered to Elgin, IL where they will be shared with those who have lost everything from a natural disaster or life-threatening violence. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Lutheran World Relief effort.

### **Commitment Sunday - Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>**

On this day, we will celebrate the ministry God has given to us as a congregation. We will make our commitments of how we can share gifts of time, abilities, and financial resources for ministry next year.

### **Annual Meeting**

First Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> following worship. Our youth will be serving brunch that day.

## **Reports for Annual Mtg. Booklet**

Please remember to email your group or committee report for the Annual Meeting Booklet to the office. The booklets need to be completed before the meeting. Thank you for your help and for your years of service at First Lutheran.

## **No Thanksgiving Eve Service at FLC**

This year the Council has decided to not have an evening Thanksgiving service. We are looking forward to next year to continue our tradition.

## **Sunday School Christmas Program**

Mark your calendars for December 10 for the annual youth Christmas Program! What do you believe in? Do you believe the story of Jesus' birth? Join us as we help convince one of our students that it happened, and that it is something that is there for him forever! Practice begins Sunday November 5 during EPIC Sunday school and will continue on November 12, 19, and December 3. We will have a practice on Saturday December 9, in the morning, followed by a pizza lunch! Then on Sunday December 10, we will gather together to hear our young people share the Good News of the Christ Child!

## **After School Program FLUBBER**

FLUBBER will wrap up for the semester two weeks before Thanksgiving. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help so far this year! We have done some fun things, and the kids are really learning a lot in EPIC Hour. We have lots of new kids this year, and it's a really great group. Our leaders have been amazing with all of their help with snack prep, homework assistance, fun activities, and everything else we have going on! Please consider joining us next semester as we continue to try new things, grow in our friendships, and learn about God! Thank you one and all! Love, Amanda.

## **Men in Mission**

On Sunday, Nov. 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 and discussion.

## **Easy As Pie**

Reminder that Easy as Pie orders will be in on Wed. Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00-8:30 p.m. Please contact Amanda if you will not be able to pick up your order. Freezer space is limited, so we need to know who needs to pick it up later. Thank you for all of your support for FLY!



## **Family Game Night**

Family Game Night, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church. The Event, organized by the Evangelism & Social Ministry Committee will be our fourth and final game night for the year. They would like to invite the congregation and the surrounding community to their **free** "Family Game Night". There will be games for ages 5 to 101! Two prize baskets drawing! Come join the fun! Snacks will be available or you may bring your favorite snacks to share. Any questions? Call Darlene Proeger at 815-520-6875

## **Collecting New Gloves, Hats, Scarves and Winter Socks**

These items are again being collected by the Evangelism Committee at the Giving Tree, which is set up in the narthex. Donations are accepted until Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Items will be distributed to the grade schools on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank You.

## **Thank You**

*We would like to thank our church family for your prayers, kind words, cards, and donations of food during the time of Aunt June's passing. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.*

*Bob & Sharon Anderson*

*Aaron & Judy Johnson*

## ***November 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.

Pat Sonnenberg – 10<sup>th</sup>

Burdette Sandrock – 14<sup>th</sup>

Sylvia Melby – 22<sup>nd</sup>

Linden Proeger – 22<sup>nd</sup>

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

## **WELCA**

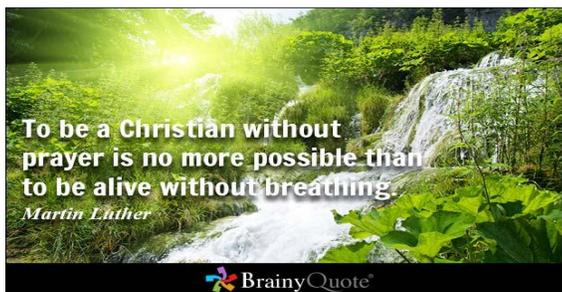
The general meeting followed by a Bible Study will be held on Mon. Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at Good Samaritan Riverview Estates. All women members of the church are invited. Hostess will be Joan Johnson. The Bible leader will be JoAnne Cocking.

## **Installation of WELCA Officers and Thank Offering Collection**

On Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> the new 2018 officers of WELCA will be installed during worship. The Thank Offering will be received at that time, checks can be made out to WELCA. The Thank Offering shows our thanks for blessings in the ordinary & extraordinary moments of life.

## **Town Christmas Parade**

Our church will have a float in the annual town Christmas Parade again this year. The theme this year is "All I want for Christmas" and we are looking for suggestions about how to decorate a float! We have a couple of ideas, but would love your input. We will decorate the float the day of the parade, time to be determined. Please contact Amanda if you have ideas, if you'd like to help decorate, and if you want to ride on the float. Let's bring first prize back to FLC!



## **Assisting in November**

### **Pastors & Worship Leader**

5 – Pastor Katie Gallagher

12 – Pastor Marilyn Hanson

19 – Pastor Roger Asplund

26 – Cathy Hinrichs

**Ushers**

FLAG Members

**Greeters**

Darryl Gibson  
Lelia Gibson  
Jason Robshaw  
Christa Robshaw

**Altar Committee**

Diane Jones  
Judy Johnson  
Amy Jones  
Michelle Wetzell

**Assisting Minister**

19 – Paul McCracken

**Cantor**

Ellen Pannier

**Readers**

5 - Ellen Pannier  
12 – Ellen Hanrahan  
19 – Orval Johnson  
26 – Karen Buck

**Acolytes**

5 - Sabrina Soleta  
12 – Max Vahle  
19 – Tinley Wetzell  
26 – Liam Johnson

**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



**Sunday Schedule**

Sunday Worship . . . . . 9:00 a.m.  
Epic Sunday School . . . . . 10:15 a.m.

**How to Reach Us**

Office Phone - 815-537-2758

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

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

Youth & Family Ministry

Amanda Schanze

Cell Phone: 309-236-1920

Secretary Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00 - Noon