

First Lutheran Church

300 W. 3rd St. Prophetstown, IL 61277

Phone: 815-537-2758

Newsletter - October, 2017



A Stewardship Story (From Stories for the Gathering by William White)

There was a potter who needed a pitcher for the milk she poured over her cereal every morning. So she measured the height of the shelves in her refrigerator and calculated the necessary dimensions for a half-gallon pitcher. She went to her studio, chose the clay she thought best and sat at her wheel. She made a shape pleasing to her eyes--after all it was her pitcher--she put on a handle shaped to her hand and added a pouring lip for that was the purpose of the pitcher. She brushed on a glaze of color that pleased her, fired it and was well pleased with the results--she had created a beautiful pitcher. She took it home, filled it with milk, put it in the refrigerator and went to bed.

The next morning the potter poured a bowl of cereal, opened the refrigerator, and reached for her new pitcher. The pitcher suddenly shouted, "Oh, no you don't! Keep your hands off." (You've never heard a pitcher talk, this is a parable!)

The potter responded, "I was just going to pour some milk on my cereal." "No, you're not!" Replied the pitcher. "I worked hard to get this. I started out with no milk at all, but through hard work and careful stewardship, I am now full of milk. No one's going to come along and pour out all that I've wanted so long to achieve! Anyway, I need all this milk; I've got a kid going to dairy school next year."

"Hmm," pondered the potter. "I don't think you understand the real story here. I created you and I made you for the purpose of filling you with milk so that I could pour it out each morning on my cereal. You were made to pour not to store!"

"A nice story, but I don't get it," said the pitcher. "But seeing that you are in need, I am a generous pitcher, I will give you two tablespoons of MY MILK. That should wet the cereal nicely. EVERYTHING IN MODERATION--THAT IS WHAT I THINK!"

The potter looked deeply into the heart of the pitcher, "You're afraid," she said, "If you allow me to pour out the milk you will find yourself empty, that you will then be poor, and that I will throw you out and find another pitcher. You don't realize that if you allow me to empty you, I will have found you to be a PRICELESS PITCHER. Then I will continue to fill you to the top over and over and over again, and we will become partners in emptying and refilling you. Perhaps, if you are willing to be emptied more completely and more often, I will find many other bowls of cereal who are longing to be drowned in the love of your giving."

"And what if I don't believe you and want to play it safe and just keep the milk I've got?" The pitcher inquired. "You are free to make that choice," the potter said with a sad voice. "Then I will make another pitcher who is willing to be my partner. I will have to set you on the back shelf of the refrigerator shelf. You can keep your milk. But after a time, your odor will keep everyone away, and you will have missed the greatest job for which all pitchers are created--THE JOY OF BEING POURED OUT!"

Pastor Katie Gallagher

August Financial Report

Beginning	\$ 1,286.98
Deposits	18,370.99
Disbursements	- 13,279.85
Correction	- 0.01
Balance	\$ 6,378.11

Church Meetings

Tuesday, October 10th

Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. with Pastor Marilyn Hanson from N. IL. Synod

September Prayer Concerns

Carole & Dick Minssen, Ann Deck, Betty Reichard, Peggy Kuelper, Michelle Wetzell, Pat & Mike Dohogne daughter and son-in-law of Joyce McCracken, Emilie Ricknell mother of Lynda VanDyke, Evelyn "Evie" Kline great granddaughter of Bob & Geri Cassens, Milissa Berg cousin's wife 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, Joseph Hickey great nephew of Lelia Gibson.

Prayers to the family of Byron Urban, father of Stan Urban, on his passing Thursday, August 31st.

Prayers to the family of Linna Joyce Naftzger on her passing on Monday, September 4th.

Prayers to the family of June Swanson, aunt of Bob Anderson and Aaron Johnson, on her passing on Sunday, September 10th.

First, We Give of Ourselves:

Giving in Generosity

We have begun the final leg of this three year stewardship journey with our attention on the topic of generosity and what it means to "give in generosity" as God's people in Christ. Kick Off Sunday - Oct. 8

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 12th.

Generosity Sunday, October 22nd:

The day we will receive an offering of "generosity" as we share gifts for Lutheran World Relief's Project Promise. This is an opportunity to give above and beyond what we regularly share in our offering at FLC for another ministry that is sharing the love of Christ, experience the joy of generosity and being a blessing to others. After church on October 22nd Personal Care Kits will be packaged. Kits will be shared with those who have lost everything from a natural disaster or life-threatening violence. This is a wonderful service project that the whole family can be a part of. Below is a list of items you can start bringing in.

Each personal Care Kit includes the following:

- 1 - Light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark colored
- 2 or 3 - Bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- 1 - Adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- 1 - Sturdy comb, remove packaging
- 1 - Metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

Commitment Sunday - Nov. 19th

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, Dec. 3rd following worship.

Reports for Annual Mtg. Booklet

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

Confirmation Sunday

On Sunday, October 29th our ninth graders will be confirmed during worship at 9:00 a.m. Since seventh grade they have attended weekly classes and been acolytes. Thank you to their mentors, parents and guides.

Please keep these young people in your prayers. Rubey Gallentine, Dawson Haggard, Max Jones, Sydney Minssen.

Reception for Pastor Katie

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

Spaghetti Dinner

Pasta, pasta, pasta! Join us for a night of yummy food and fellowship! The Church Council and FLY are sponsoring our 2nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on October 22nd from 4:30-6:30pm. Tickets are available for sale from Council and FLY members, or in the church office, and anyone else who would like to sell tickets is more than welcome to pick up a set! Adults are \$6, and kids 6-12 are \$4, with kids 5 and under free. Your hearty meal of spaghetti with marinara sauce, meatballs, salad, breadstick, drink, and dessert will fill you up for sure. We had a great turnout last year, and hope we can get even more people there this time around!

Epic Sunday School

Don't forget that we have EPIC Sunday School after worship on the first 3 Sundays (or 4 if 5 Sundays) of the month! On the last Sunday of the month, the Sunday school kids sing in worship, with "Jesus Loves Me" as our signature song! EPIC stands for Every Person In Christ! That means EVERYONE is invited and important to faith formation! Remember there is Adult Education running at the same time as the youth Sunday School, and then we all come together for a joint project or activity. We'd love to see all of you there!

Men in Mission: On Sunday, Oct. 1st 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 orders will once again be taken starting Sunday October 1, and we will continue to take orders through Sunday October 9. Pies, cookies, and other yummy treats will be available again. Orders will be finalized and processed early that next week, so orders have to be in by October 16. Delivery of the items will be on Wed, Nov 8, in plenty of time for the holidays! Thank you for your past participation in this fundraiser for FLY, and we thank you in advance for helping us in this year's fundraising effort!

After School Program FLUBBER

We are well into the FLUBBER program, and we are having a wonderful time! The group of kids this year in the program are enthusiastic, funny, and hungry- hungry from school and hungry to learn about God! We share a meal together, work on homework or reading, have a crazy amazing chapel time, and do some pretty neat activities! Please consider joining our dedicated group of volunteers and help kids in our congregation and community have a great after-school experience. Please talk to Amanda to find out how you can help!

WELCA

The general meeting will be held on Mon. Oct. 9th at 1:30 p.m. at Good Samaritan Riverview Estates. All women members of the church are invited. Hostess will be Jan Carlson. The Bible leader will be Rosemary Sibley.

Book Fair: Shop for award-winning Bibles, books, and videos for babies to ten-year-olds. Save up to 40% plus free shipping on all Book Fair titles. Stop by the table in the Narthex on October 1, 8, and 15 after church to get faith-filled books and videos for your kids. Our Book Fair is sponsored by Sparkhouse Family, an imprint of Sparkhouse that is committed to telling stories that help parents instill an open-hearted, transformational, lifelong Christian faith in their children at every age and stage. The books will include some Sparkhouse Family favorite titles, like The Spark Story Bible, as well as new titles like "Grit and Grace: Heroic Women of the Bible." Get something for each child you know! This is primarily an opportunity for you to purchase some great resources for your family, but the church does get a little money out of it also! Check it out!

Trunk or Treat: FLC will be hosting Trunk-or-Treat again this year. This is an opportunity for community kids to wear their costume again, or maybe a different one, and have fun in a safe environment! We will be hosting this event on October 27, the Friday before Halloween, from 5-7pm. We will be asking for toilet paper donations for the Food Pantry in Prophetstown again this year. There will be games, food, and lots of treats, as well as an allergy free treat/goodie station. Please sign up to get a spot for your terrifying trunk, haunted hatchback, or maybe even a creaky casket convertible! We are also accepting candy donations for the event participants to give out. Let's make this Trunk-or-Treat better than ever!

October 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.

Charles Sonnenberg – 1st

Betty Lou Olsen – 18th

JoAnne Cocking – 29th

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

Youth Outing to Corn Maze

All 6th through 12th grade students! Back by popular demand, we are going back to Jonamac Orchard in Malta IL for the Haunted Maze! On Saturday October 21, we will meet and drive together to the corn maze. We will leave at 4:00 pm (bring a sack lunch/dinner- we will not stop for food), and plan to return at approximately 9:30pm. Cost for the maze is \$13 per person. We will need a few parent drivers, so please consider volunteering your time and car. Please dress appropriately for evening fall weather. No flashlights allowed. When we get to the maze, we will do a Bible study on "Where is God when I'm scared?" and then go into the maze. This should be a fun time for all involved! Please sign up by October 18, so we can make arrangements for drivers. ("Do not be afraid" is said 365 times in the bible. So no worries, God is with you!)

Thrivent

First Lutheran Youth would like to ask for your help specifically this year with fundraising, and it *won't cost you anything!* Did you know one of your member benefits is two \$250 Action Team Grants every year? You can use those grants to purchase supplies, advertising, food, postage, and more to help subsidize costs on community service events, educational events, or even *your church's youth group fundraisers!* We would like to partner with you to help make our fundraising efforts this year even more profitable. All it takes is an online application to get your Action Team funded, and Amanda can help you do that! Please talk to Amanda about donating your grants to the youth group. We'd sure appreciate it! Blessings and thank you!

Assisting in October

Ushers & Greeters

Youth

Altar Committee

Betty Reichard, Lonna Zschiesche, Gwen Gardner

Assisting Ministers

15 – Youth

29 - Confirmands

Cantor

Marilyn Melton

Readers

1 - Kerry Meyer

- 8 - Lynda VanDyke
- 15 - Ben Sandrock
- 22 - Connie Johnson
- 29 - Marilyn Skromme

Acolytes

- 1 - Max Jones
- 8 - Sydney Minssen
- 15 - Nate Gallagher
- 22 - Jacob Malone
- 29 - Emyli 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 Office Hours
Monday-Friday: 9:00 - Noon

Sunday Schedule

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

How to Reach Us

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