

# First Lutheran Church

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

Phone: 815-537-2758

*Newsletter - September, 2017*

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**Catch the Spirit!!!** That's what comes to mind when I think about the awesome ministries that take place at First Lutheran. The Holy Spirit is contagious as it flows through the people who are impacted by the ministries that happen here. Catching the Spirit also has me thinking about stewardship because **Stewardship is Foundational to Everything A Church Does!**

In First Corinthians 16:1-4, St. Paul writes...

*Now concerning the contribution for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as you may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come. And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.*

This is what we learn from the apostle Paul from this text...

- 1. First, GIVING is an act of Worship!**
- 2. Give systematically. If we give when we worship, we will give regularly.**
- 3. Give proportionately to income. We cannot give what we have not received, but we can withhold what we have received. Giving an amount in proportion to what we earn helps us control that selfish human reflex.**
- 4. Plan your giving in advance.**

The Spirit is alive and well here at First. We certainly have been blessed in so many and various ways. I encourage you to take some time this September and count your blessings. While you are doing that, also think about your stewardship to this community. Are you financially contributing significantly to the ministries of this congregation? Are you using your time and talents to the best of your ability and helping others "Catch the Spirit" here in Prophetstown?

As your Pastor and spiritual advisor, I encourage all of you to give generously from the heart. The ministry that happens here would not be able to happen without your help of time, treasure, and talent. Consider increasing your giving and becoming more involved in the mission of this congregation. Pray about these things and ask God to help and guide you...then ask yourself, "What would God have me do?"

***Then Let's Catch the Spirit Together!!!***

In Christ,  
Pastor Katie

## **Worship in the Park - Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**

Join us at the State Park for worship and potluck picnic on Sun. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. Worship with the band playing will be at 10 a.m. followed by the potluck picnic. Bring your lawn chairs and pray for good weather. Evangelism Committee is providing pulled pork, hot dogs, buns and drinks. You are asked to bring salads or desserts and your table service. In the event of rain we will meet at church with worship still at 10 a.m. and our picnic to follow.

## **July Financial Report**

Beginning . . . . .	\$	3,028.21
Deposits . . . . .		11,752.85
Disbursements . . . . .	-	13,494.08
Correction . . . . .	-	0.00
<b>Balance . . . . .</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,286.98</b>

## **Church Meetings**

Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>  
Committee Meetings @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

## **August Prayer Concerns**

Betty Reichard, Dick Minssen, Peggy Kuelper, Michelle Wetzell, Connie Johnson, Pat & Mike Dohogne daughter and son-in-law of Joyce McCracken, Emilie Ricknell mother of Lynda VanDyke, 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 Harry Shuman, a cousin of Charlene & Paul McCracken, on his passing on Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.

Prayers to the family of Charlie Sanders, an uncle of Rosemary & Paul Sibley, on his passing on Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

This fall we enter into the final leg of our three-year journey exploring discipleship and growing as stewards. We began our first leg with an emphasis on "Giving in Grace." Year two was one filled with the meaning of gratitude as we centered our attention of "Giving in Gratitude". Now, as we enter year three of this emphasis on discipleship and stewardship, we turn our attention to "Giving in Generosity". Over the next number of weeks, we will explore the concept of generosity, both God's and ours. What does God's generosity look like? How do we live each day in God's generosity? How does God's generosity provide a model for our own? These are just a few of the questions we will explore together.

### **Mark These Dates on Your Calendar**

Sunday, October 8, 2017 **"First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Generosity Kick Off Sunday"**

Sunday, November 12, 2017 **"Generosity Sunday"** This is a special day providing an opportunity for the combined generosity of our congregation in sharing a gift for a ministry outside our congregation. Be watching for more news about this opportunity for generosity.

Sunday November 19, 2017 **Celebration and Commitment Sunday.** At this service, we will celebrate God's generosity and indicate how we will generously share our gifts in response to God's grace and for our ministry of sharing this grace.

## **Giving in Generosity: All Congregation Bible Study**

Gathering around God's Word enriches all we do. As we experience our conversation about generosity, we have the opportunity to share in an All congregation Bible Study entitled, "Giving in Generosity". This is a four-week study that will examine generosity from the perspective of God's grace. God's generosity, and how God's generosity is model for our own. This Bible Study will take place during our EPIC Sunday School Hour from 10:15am-11:15am downstairs in our conference room. The dates of the study are: Sundays October 8<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and November 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **After School Program FLUBBER**

FLUBBER begins on September 7. This after school program is a very important part of the ministry of this church, and of the community. About 20 students are in the program each year, and we eat, exercise, learn, craft, and worship with each other. The relationships these kids build with each other, the adult leaders, and especially God are genuine and will encourage them in their lives outside of the church's walls. Pastor Katie has been an integral part of this ministry during her time here, and we will need extra help when she is gone. We are in need of volunteers in several areas this year: food prep, homework help, art/science help, and activity help. If you could prayerfully consider being a "AAA" leader (affirming-available-authentic) we would love for you to join this wonderful program. Talk to Amanda if you have questions or would like to be a part of this ministry.

## **Confirmation - Journey through the Bible...**For Youth in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

With ancestors from Adam and Eve, Jonah, John the Baptist to Lydia, youth will encounter important individuals in the Old and New Testaments. We will encourage youth to see the similarities between themselves and their faith ancestors

**Schedule:** Wednesdays 7 – 8 pm at FLC

Please bring your Bible, Work Book, Folder, and Pen to every class.

### **Fall Semester**

9-6: Mentor Night

9-13: Abraham & Sarah

9-20: Jacob

9-27: Joseph

10-4: Mentor Night

10-11: Moses

10-18: Rahab

10-25: Deborah

11-1: Mentor Night

11-8: Sampson

Nov. 10 - 12: Peder Eide Retreat (Ruth, David, Solomon, Elijah)

11-15: Service Project

11-22: (No Class)

11-29: Solomon

12-6: Mentor Night

12-13: Jonah

12-20: Mary Mother of Jesus

### **Spring Semester**

1-3: Retreat (John the Baptist, Centurion, Twelve Disciples, Sheep, Simon Peter)

1-10: Mentor Night

1-17: Syrophenician Woman

1-24: Sadducees and Pharisees

1-31: Mary and Martha

2-7: Judas Iscariot

February Youth Quake Weekend: TBD

(Pontius Pilate, Mary Magdalene)

February 14-March 28: Lent – No classes, expected to attend all Lent Services

4-4: Mentor Night

4-11: Thomas

4-18: Saul/Paul

4-25: Lydia

5-3: End of Year Celebration

## **A Message from Amanda**

I like to think that I'm tough. That I can handle anything and everything that comes my way. That I *won't* fall apart when life hands me a semi-truck full of lemons. AND that I can do it all on my own. It has become *abundantly* clear to me that is not the case. I have found that while it is clear that God is with me on the mountain, He is even more present in the valleys of my life. There is a popular saying that I always hear when someone is trying to be supportive in a time of trial: "God only gives us what we can handle." I think it's very different from that. "God helps us handle what we are given." I truly believe one way He does this is by sending people to serve together in the ministry of the Kingdom. I am working to make sure that all of the ministries that I worked on WITH Pastor Katie will continue successfully after her departure. This will make it necessary for some of us to maybe step out of our comfort zone, and prayerfully consider other areas of ministry to help with.

As we prepare for another chapter in the life of this congregation, I hope that we can all support each other in faith and companionship through all of the good times and tough times to come.

## **Thank You from FLY**

FLY would like to take this opportunity to say thank you. You have been so generous and supporting over the years, and we really feel the love you send our way! As a new school year starts, so does a new year for FLY. We have had a preliminary meeting about where God is leading us for next summer. All signs point to: HOUSTON! The ELCA National Youth Gathering is being held in Houston, TX next summer, and our youth group will be sending a large group of youth and adults. We will need to do a lot of work- financially, physically, and spiritually- to prepare for this trip. Please continue to pray for us and support us in any way you can. We love you all so much, and know that you love us! Thank you in advance for all your support!

## **FLC Farmer's Market/Arts & Craft Show**

First Lutheran Church 2017 Farmer's Market/Arts & Craft Show will be held on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to this being a great 1<sup>st</sup> year. This Craft Show is a major fundraiser for various committee projects of FLC. We are so appreciative of your time, talents, and support, all of which will make this event a huge success.

For further directions, questions, or information about our Church event, please email our committee at: [FLCFMCraftshow@yahoo.com](mailto:FLCFMCraftshow@yahoo.com) or call committee member Darlene at 815-520-6875. Please do not call the Church office for requests or questions about the application process. Applications for the Farmer's Market/Arts & Craft Show will be accepted until September 15<sup>th</sup> or until all booths are assigned. All contracts must be returned with payment in full to hold your space to committee member: Darlene Proeger, 4060 Smit Road, Prophetstown, IL 61277.

## **Reformation -- Did You Know?**

### **Luther Said:**

God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.

On procrastination, Luther wrote, "How soon not now becomes never."

"War is the greatest plague that can afflict humanity, it destroys religion, it destroys states, it destroys families. Any scourge is preferable to it."

One of Luther's classmates said of him, "You were at once the musician and learned philosopher of our company."

Before Luther started his day, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

"Wealth is God's gift. One should not discard it; one should thank God for it and use it in a Christian manner."

"God created the world out of nothing; so as long as we are nothing, God can make something out of us."

"If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant."

"I ask that they make no reference to my name and call themselves, not Lutherans but Christians. What is Luther? After all, the doctrine is not mine, nor have I been crucified for anyone."

Of the 95 Theses: "I would never have thought that such a storm would rise from Rome over one simple scrap of paper."

## ***September 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.

Bob Cassens – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Dea Sandrock – 4<sup>th</sup>

Francis Copeland – 23<sup>rd</sup>

Doug Jensen – 25<sup>th</sup>

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

## **N. IL Synod's Stewardship Resourcing Event**

Embracing Stewardship, is being held Sat. Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at Faith Lutheran in Rochelle. Registration deadline is Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. This event is designed for rostered leaders, church council members, stewardship team members, and any member of your congregations who would like to have a great discussion about this very important ministry. Each congregation represented at the workshop will receive a copy of the book "Embracing Stewardship" written by our leaders, Pastor Charles Lane and Ms. Grace Duddy Pomroy. You may order your own book, the cost is \$12 per book, through the Synod website. You may register online at <http://nisynod.org/embracing-stewardship-a-resourcing-event-for-congregations/>, or phoning the Rock Island Synod Office at 309-794-4004.

Pastor Kurt Nordby

Assistant to the Bishop of Stewardship & Development

## **Leo Club**

Leo Club is starting once again! All high school students are encouraged to join the PHS Leo Club. This organization is the youth division of Lion's Club International, and is focused on serving their community, both locally, nationally, and internationally. The group meets each Thursday at 7:45am in the high school library. We plan events like blood drives, and projects like birdfeeders for the nursing home. If you enjoy serving others, and having fun while doing it, this group is for you! Please join us!

## **Assisting in September**

### **Ushers**

Dave & Kerry Meyer

### **Greeters**

Darrel & Glenda Sampson

Marilyn Skromme

### **Altar Committee**

Nancy Plautz

Kellie Larrabee

Donna Roland

Tara Johnson

### **Assisting Ministers**

17 – Cathy Hinrichs

Mary Roland

### **Cantor**

Aaron Johnson

### **Readers**

3 - Rosemary Sibley

10 – Judy Johnson

17 – Ken Cocking

24 – Dave Meyer

### **Acolytes**

3 - Max Vahle

10 – Tinley Wetzell

17 – Rubey Gallentine

24 – Dawson Haggard

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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 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)