

First Lutheran Church

300 W. 3rd St. Prophetstown, IL 61277

Phone: 815-537-2758

Newsletter - March, 2018



“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.”

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-19

On Ash Wednesday our foreheads were marked with ashes and we heard the sobering words, “remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” For some, the Lenten season is gloomy and unpleasant and so they avoid it. Penitence, contrition, remorse, the themes of Lent, is unsettling. Who wouldn’t rather skip the gloom and go straight for the glory?

I am also reminded this year, however, as I learn new faces and new names, that Lent is also a time of renewal. Change can sometimes be unsettling, but it can also bring us unexpected joys. Already my family and I have been touched by the welcoming spirit present at First Lutheran Church and we feel eager for the time spent with you!

St. Paul reminds us in his first letter to the Thessalonians that the things of God—joy, prayer, giving thanks, can be known in all circumstances. Lent is but a preparation for the circumstances of our lives that might be less than glorious or unfamiliar or downright difficult.

The Spirit, God’s Holy Spirit, is with us, however, helping us, in whatever trouble or joy or sorrow or pleasure we encounter, in whatever discipline we might choose to accomplish. Prayer, then, is the acknowledgment that God is present in all such circumstances of our lives.

One of the many prayers of our faith tradition we might ponder this Lenten season is from St. Francis:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled
as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

I give thanks in my prayers for all of you and look forward to continued worshipping and praying together, growing in faith, and doing God’s work in Prophetstown and beyond!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pastor Susan' in a cursive, flowing script.

Pastor Susan Davenport

Council Meeting - Feb. 13th

Meeting was held with 6 members absent.

January Minutes: Approved

Treasurer's Report: Approved

Pastor's Report: Highlighted that a Lent noon service will be held at FLC and a small lunch will be provided. Vicki Ottens will be in charge of the lunch. NIS Congregational Resourcing Event sign-up sheets were handed out. Pastor had received the NIS acknowledgement support letter and gave it to Jason. Pastor will be at the Festival of Homiletics May 21-26 and taking the following week as vacation. Kathy Burkheimer will provide pulpit supply for those two Sundays.

President's Report: Nothing to report

Youth & Family Ministry: Fundraising for the 2018 Houston Gathering has received \$15,684, with only \$1,116 to go. Also, the number of people attending has increased by one, a young man from St. James in Forrester is planning to register and travel with our group.

VBS will be hosted by FLC in July, a planning meeting Feb. 18th at 1:30 p.m.

Christian Education: Amanda will be meeting first with the committee to discuss her concerns about her position, then the executive committee. First Communion classes will be starting soon. A request was made to the Endowment Committee for a contribution of \$500 for the youth community account and they gave \$1,000.

Evangelism: Busy bags were filled.

Property: Nothing to report.

Stewardship & Finance: Bills were paid.

Worship & Music: Hymns were chosen for April. The check for the copyright license fee has been issued.

Old & New Business: Nothing to report.

January Financial Report

Beginning	\$ 7,925.78
Deposits	25,753.06
Disbursements	- 12,984.19
Transfer to Building	- 918.00
Correction	- 0.00
Balance	\$ 19,776.55

Church Meetings: Tuesday, March 13th

Committee Meetings @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

Call Committee

A Call Committee will be established for the process of FLC receiving our new pastor. The Synod will guide us through this process. If you would like to be on the committee please contact an executive committee member... Pam Strike, Paul McCracken, Jason Robshaw, Sharon Anderson. Once this committee is organized we will begin the Synod's process. If you need information for the calling procedure there is information on the church tables "What's Next in the Call Process" from N. IL Synod or visit the Synod website at www.nisynod.org We thank you all for your dedication and patience to First Lutheran as we proceed to the future.

Community Lenten Worship Services

On Wednesday s during Lent noon services will be held at our community churches. Following the services a simple meal of soup and bread will be served. The schedule is as follows:

March 7: First Lutheran Church March 14: Fenton Methodist Church March 21: Catholic Church

FLC Lenten Worship Series: A Lenten Journey to the Easter Vigil

Join us at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays during lent for worship as each week we will have a journey to the Easter vigil. Each week for worship we will have one of our conference pastors leading us. The service will be the Holden Evening Prayer.

March 7: Deliverance at the Red Sea—Pastor Brandon Nelson (St. Paul, Sterling)

March 14: Flood – Pastor Jacob Gawlik (St. John, Sterling)

March 21: Testing of Abraham - Pastor Susan Davenport (FLC)

FLC Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday March 25 – 9:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday March 29 -7:00 p.m.

First Communion for fifth graders will be celebrated followed by a reception in honor of the students.

Good Friday March 30 – 7:00 p.m. Community Worship service here at FLC

Easter April 1–7:00 am Community Sunrise Service at Congregational Church with breakfast to Follow 9:00 a.m. Worship and Communion at FLC. Followed by Sunday School for all ages and an Easter Egg Hunt.

Easter Sunday School

Calling all kids AND adults! Please join us downstairs after worship on Easter, April 1st to celebrate with a fun Sunday School activity and lesson, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt! (Outside if weather permits!) Having this extra time to learn about the risen Christ helps all of us, not just kids, really dig into what God did for us on the Cross. We hope to see you there!

February Prayer Concerns

Aaron Johnson, Doug Jensen, Jean Milnes, Stan Urban, Burdette Sandrock, Carole & Dick Minssen, Michelle Wetzell, Peggy Kuelper, Rick Chapman husband of Mindy Chapman, Barbara Morphew sister of Betty Lou & Milton Olsen, Sarah Hill granddaughter in-law of Joyce McCracken, Steve and Andrew McCracken son and grandson of Paul & Charlene McCracken, 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

Prayers to Kathy Kelly and family on the passing of her husband Ron Kelly. He passed away on Sunday, February 4th in Lakeland, FL.

Prayers to Sherry, Abi, Myrai and Emyli Sandrock and family on the passing of Sherry's mother Faye Goldecker. She passed away on Thursday, February 8th in Sterling.

Prayers to Illene & Burnell Howlett, Jeanne Frank and families on the passing of their brother-in-law and uncle John Pristash. He passed away on Wednesday, February 14th in Amarillo, TX.

Messiah Concert in Morrison

On Palm Sunday, March 25th, the Morrison Ecumenical Chorus will be performing Handel's Messiah Concert at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Morrison. A free will offering will be collected. Pastor Susan, her husband Greg and son Karl will all be part of the choir.

A Message from Amanda

Flood. It can truly be a scary word. The power of water is amazing. We saw this recently with ice jams on the river causing flooding most everywhere around us, causing road closures, property damage, and even a home rescue to happen. But, on the other side of that, floods are also a part of nature that can help restore health to the land. Most of the mud and silt now laying in fields will help restore nutrients. It can wash away some of the "icky-ness" that tends to build up over time. I think about this most often as

spring starts to show itself in warmer days, soaking rains (that the ground may or may not be ready for,) and every once in a while something green poking out of the ground. The scariness of water is also such a blessing. The harshness of snow is also necessary for the moisture it leaves behind. Water is absolutely important to us as humans, and as children of God. As we continue to journey toward Easter, think about your own experiences with water: fun times in the pool or lake, unhappy times when rain or snow cancelled plans, and most especially of your Baptism. What are we doing to live out our Baptismal promises during Lent? May you feel the flood of God's love every day in your life, and may you share that love with those around you. Blessings!

Thank You from FLY

FLY would like to thank the congregation for all of its support, and continued future support, in their fundraising efforts for the Gathering in Houston. It seemed like such a daunting task when we set out, but you have done more for us than we had ever hoped, and we are now soooo close to our goal! Please continue to check out our Meal Board (remember it might be in a different spot than the last time you saw it!) See what new facts have been uncovered about our team members. Want to know more? Donate toward a meal! You can do any donation or specify whose info you'd like uncovered. Every dollar helps. And on that note... Remember any extra change you have lying around can go to use for the Houston team too! We have a fun project coming up - we will be doing our bird flocking fundraiser again, a little more organized and with a couple of new twists. It should be fun for our congregation and our community! Flock your family, friends, or neighbors! We will need a Thrivent Action Team (or two) to help purchase supplies for this FUN-draiser, so if you'd like to donate one to FLY, please see Amanda. Again, thank you so much for your prayers and support. We love you all and can't thank you enough!

FLUBBER needs a CD player.

A used CD player would wonderful as long as it will play CDs! We have so much fun singing to sweet old Sun. School songs, funny VBS songs, and new radio songs (like K-Love or WCIC!) Having a CD player makes it much easier to share these tunes with the kiddos! If you have one to donate see Amanda. Thank you!



Community Vacation Bible School

Put a mark on your calendar for July 23-27! Shipwrecked Community VBS is coming to Prophetstown! This fun curriculum about "Rescued By Jesus" is centered around a fun tropical island theme, and will be a wonderful way to teach our area kids about Jesus! Please watch the Prophetstown Community VBS Facebook group for more info as it becomes available. Also please be on the lookout at church for requests of supplies, decoration items, and of course- VOLUNTEERS! Please consider helping out our community by donating whatever you can to VBS- items, money, and/or time! Thank you for your awesome support through the years, and please pray for us as we prepare to get SHIPWRECKED!



WELCA

The general meeting will be held on Monday, March 12th at 1:30 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Riverview Estates. All women members of the church are invited. Hostess will be Shirley Jensen. The Bible Leader will be Rosemary Sibley.

Men in Mission

On Sunday, March 4th at 7:30 a.m. all men, members of the church or not, are welcome to join us for breakfast, bible study and discussion. The new program is “Gospel Too Small”.

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 – 8th
Ruth Bartlett – 24th
Geri Cassens – 27th

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

Assisting in March

Ushers

Karl Kruse
Gary Hinrichs
Cathy Hinrichs

Greeters

Donna Roland
Amanda Schanze
Hannah Schanze

Altar Committee

Joan Johnson
Jodi Farral
Karen Buck

Assisting Minister

18 – Paul McCracken
25 – Randy Roland

Cantor

Paul McCracken

Readers

4 – Paul McCracken
11 – Ken Cocking
18 – Dale Proeger
25 – Jason Robshaw

Acolytes

4 – Liam Johnson
7 – 7 p.m. Jackson Minssen
11 – Carl Sonnenberg
14 – 7 p.m. Jacob Malone
18 – Connor Sandrock
21 – 7 p.m. Emyli Sandrock
25 – Sabrina Soleta
29 – 7 p.m. Max Vahle
30 – 7 p.m. Tinley Wetzell



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

Contact Us

Church Office - 815-537-2758

Website: www.firstlutheran-ptown.org

FLC Email: flcptown@frontiernet.net

Pastor Susan Davenport – Interim Pastor

Cell Phone: 563-613-3892

Email: pastorsusan@frontier.com

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.



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