

# First Lutheran Church

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

Phone: 815-537-2758

Newsletter - April, 2018

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*“Paul went to see [Aquila and Priscilla],<sup>3</sup> and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers.” Acts 18: 2*

*“[Many women] provided support for Jesus and his disciples out of their resources.” Luke 8: 3b*

For most of the past century, mainline denomination churches in the US have had the resources to fully support a pastor [and other staff] with tangible things like salary, parsonage or housing allowance, retirement plan and health benefits. For the past 25+ years, however, since my ordination, I have seen the church’s resources shrink and congregations struggling to pay the ever-rising costs of fully supporting a professional pastor.

Considering that reality, and the reality of my own part-time pastoral position, I recently began employment as a part-time Victim’s Assistant in the State’s Attorney’s office of Whiteside County. I am now working that job, alongside of my work as First Lutheran’s interim pastor. When I interviewed, I was assured the position is “flexible” and my hours can be adjusted for things that come up in the church. I will generally not work at all, for instance, on Thursdays, or ever on Saturdays or Sundays.

I never thought I would want or be qualified to do work outside of pastoral work. But when this job came up and I had the opportunity to interview, the pieces fell into place for both forms of service to be part of one larger calling.

The author of Acts, Luke, writes how the Spirit empowers Christians to use their resources and their gifts for the sake of the whole community. There is little room to draw distinctions between “professional ministry” and other forms of witness. According to Acts, Christians actually have only one vocation—witnessing to the gospel. We can do that in whatever job we do, as Luther wrote, from changing a diaper to washing a dish to taking out the trash.

Recently in researching the subject of “bi-vocational ministry,” I read a line about it that impressed me: “a Christian who engages in a . . . profession, in order to support a spiritual profession such as preaching and teaching about Jesus, would be more accurately described as “dual service” rather than “bi-vocational”—one calling, two forms of service.

I have been so happy to serve as your interim pastor and plan to continue for as long as I am needed. I am also excited to be working in the community of Whiteside County with persons in need and civil servants who help to maintain the public order. Please feel free to ask me any questions you have about this and thank you for love and support.

Peace,

*Pastor Susan*

## February Financial Report

Beginning . . . . .	\$ 21,063.63
Disbursements . . . . .	– 11,877.43
Deposits . . . . .	9,340.43
Transfer to Building . . . . .	– 111.00
Correction . . . . .	– 0.00
<b>Balance . . . . .</b>	<b>\$ 18,415.63</b>

## Church Meetings

Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>  
Committee Meetings @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.



### **Easter Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup>**

7:00 a.m. 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 Epic Sunday School**

Please join us after worship on Easter Sunday for a special Easter lesson and activity! We are excited to share the story of Jesus' resurrection with you! A short lesson and activity will be shared, and we encourage ALL AGES AND STAGES to join us in the Fellowship Hall. Then we will join together in an Easter Egg Hunt! (Outside if the weather cooperates!) We know this is a special day that many families share together, so why not start at EPIC Sunday School? See you there!

### **First Communion**

Holy Communion classes for fifth graders have been completed by Kaitlin Proeger and Parker Rangel. They received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Following worship a fellowship was held in their honor. We welcome Kaitlin and Parker to the Lord's Table!

### **Call Committee**

A 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](http://www.nisynod.org) We thank you all for your dedication and patience to First Lutheran as we proceed to the future.

### **FLY Fundraising**

Have you checked out FLY's meal board lately? Facts are being uncovered every week because of your generous donations! Want to know more about a participant? You can tell Amanda exactly whose info you want uncovered, or you can be surprised with who you get to know more about! Place your donations in the envelope at the top of the board, and see what you learn about our team members! During April this fundraiser will be in the Narthex. Thank you for your love, your prayers, and your generous donations.

### **March Prayer Concerns**

Aaron Johnson, Doug Jensen, Jean Milnes, Stan Urban, Burdette Sandrock, Carole & Dick Minssen, Michelle Wetzell, Peggy Kuelper, Dorothy Roland mother of Randy Roland, Rick Chapman husband of Mindy Chapman, Barbara Morpew 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 Pastor Susan Davenport, Greg, Caitlynn, Kelly and Karl Kruse on the passing of Greg's brother Paul Kruse. He passed away on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> in Washington State.

Prayers to Pete & Arnold Frank and family on the passing of Pete's brother-in-law Rodney Jamieson. He passed away on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> in East Moline.

Prayers to Gwen Gardner and family on the passing of their aunt Dorothy Gardner. She passed away on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Looking for Someone to Mow**

We are looking for someone to mow the church and the lot. If you are interested please contact Eric VanDyke or Paul McCracken.

### **A Message from Amanda**

"Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; love is come again like wheat arising green." – ELW #379 *Now the Green Blade Rises* This is my favorite Easter Hymn. Scratch that. It's probably my favorite hymn, period! I really love the duality of the dark and light, death and life, barren and green. I have been reminded many times over the last few weeks of this. People I love that have passed on have come to life again in different ways: through experiences I've had, songs I've heard, or just memories that have come to surface after a long absence. The love I carry with me for them may seem to die off a bit, but then something comes along and I am reminded of how much I still love them. There is a bit of sadness in the missing of them, but great joy in the remembering. Another song I love by the Newsboys is "Your Love Never Fails," and it gets part of its lyrics from Psalm 30- "There may be pain in the night, but joy comes in the morning." I think this is a piece of Easter that we carry with us throughout the year. The fact that even though *we* feel like God may be far off, his love is always with us. His Son died on the cross to show us just how much! Blessings to you and your family this Easter season!

An added note: This year Jr. League will NOT be having the Garage Sale.

### **Soup-er Bowl Offering Update**

Have you ever had this experience: You are thinking about something and the answer just falls in your lap? This just happened to me! I was starting to think about where in Houston we could donate the \$84 that was given during Soup-er Bowl Sunday. This money is always designated to a hunger related cause. I was thinking about giving it to a food bank or something similar. Then I got a packet in the mail from the ELCA about a World Hunger project that would be highlighted at the Gathering. It's called the Global Farm Challenge. The gifts given during this challenge support projects in more than 60 countries around the world, including the United States. The money you gave may not seem like enough, but when put together with so many other congregations like ours, the ELCA's goal of \$500,000 will definitely be met! If you wish to give more specifically for us to give to the Global Farm Challenge, please talk to me (Amanda.) I thank you for your donations on Soup-er Bowl Sunday!

### **FLY Breakfast Fundraiser**

To help raise funds for our trip this summer, FLY will be serving breakfast the morning of the town garage sales, May 12<sup>th</sup>. We will serve biscuits and gravy, eggs, and a variety of baked goods. Drinks will also be provided. Cost is by donation. Please watch the church bulletin, Echo, and online information for more details as it gets closer. We will be asking the congregation for donations of baked goods. Thank you for all of your generous support of our youth!

### **Jr. League Garage Sale**

This year there will be no Garage Sale. We thank you for your past support. Some coming year it will be held again. Watch for details and think of what you want to downsize, reduce and recycle.

## **Flamingo Flocking Fundraiser**

During April, FLY will be signing people up for their flamingo flocking fundraiser! This time around, we have a new and expanded flock! You can flock your family, friends, and neighbors for as little as \$10! You can also buy “flock insurance” at different levels to opt-out of being flocked while still supporting our youth group. But this year, it’s not just yards that can be flocked! We are offering office and car flocking, which is a whole other level of fun! Depending on the number of flamingos and how long you wish to flock someone, prices start at \$10 and go up to \$100. Again, depending on how long you’d like to buy flock insurance, prices for that range from \$15-\$105. Kids will be taking requests for flocking and insurance April 8, 15, and 22. We will start flocking yards, cars, and offices April 29. We will keep the person who flocked you a secret, but I’ve heard we can be bribed... If you have any questions, please call Amanda at 309-236-1920. Thanks, and we look forward to flocking you!

## **Youth Sunday**

On Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> the youth will be leading us in worship. Sunday School students will be singing. FLY will be serving brunch.



## **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, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Riverview Estates. All women members of the church are invited. Hostess will be Vicki Ottens. The Bible Leader will be Rosemary Sibley.

## **Men in Mission**

The group will meet on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> (week after Easter) 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”.

## **April 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.

Dick Foltzler – 15<sup>th</sup>

Faye Finck – 21<sup>st</sup>

Shirley Jensen – 28<sup>th</sup>

Nan Plautz – 30<sup>th</sup>

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

## **Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to clean and wax the floors. This yearly pre-Easter work is a great way to get us ready for spring and Easter.

## **Assisting in April**

### **Ushers**

Rick Woolums  
Ann Woolums  
Charlene McCracken

### **Greeters**

Carole Minssen  
Judy Johnson

### **Altar Committee**

Carole Minssen  
Heather Minssen  
Darlene Proeger  
Charlene McCracken

### **Assisting Minister**

1 - Donna Roland  
Rick Woolums  
15 - Vicki Ottens

### **Cantor**

Aaron Johnson

### **Readers**

1 - Joan Johnson  
8 - Donna Roland  
15 - Judy Johnson  
22 - Rick Woolums  
29 - Jacob Malone

### **Acolytes**

1 - Jack Minssen  
8 - Liam Johnson  
15 - Carl Sonnenberg  
22 - Jacob Malone  
29 - 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

## Contact Us

Church Office - 815-537-2758

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

FLC Email: [flcptown@frontiernet.net](mailto:flcptown@frontiernet.net)

Pastor Susan Davenport – Interim Pastor

Cell Phone: 563-613-3892

Email: [pastorsusan@frontier.com](mailto: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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