

First Lutheran Church

300 West Third Street † Prophetstown, IL 61277

Phone: 815-537-2758

April, 2020 – FLC Newsletter

Greetings FLC Family,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! I wish you all a wonderful and blessed Easter season! I trust you all were able to enjoy our online Easter service and for those who do not have internet access, hopefully you liked your Easter card and printed service in the mail. I know many of you have made phone calls to family and friends, said or waved hello from afar, cooked some food or just hung out in your pajamas. I hope whatever your Easter Sunday looked like, it was life giving for you.

Chris and I want to thank all of you for the work you have been putting into keeping each other connected. I am so proud of our dedicated congregation for calling one another, sending cards and even leaving food and flowers on front door steps. I feel so loved by the many cards we've received in the mail and I just want to take this time to thank each and every one of you. Thank you for your understanding throughout this pandemic. Thank you for following us on Facebook or through our church website page. Thank you for writing personal heartfelt cards to your neighbors. Thank you for praying each day at noon. Thank you for keeping our church united with conversations and text messages. And thank you most of all for just being you and for loving one another. I know these are some uncertain times, but I have hope in our FLC family. Even though we may not be able to gather physically, we are still united as the whole church. We are a family in Christ and we are in this together!

“We followers of Jesus have genuine hope, authentic joy, life-changing truth, abundant love, and generosity in service. And all that is exactly what our sad and lost world needs. You can be a shining light, one true friend, for the blessing of someone else. You can let the resurrected life of Christ overflow into all your relationships.

‘I know that my Redeemer lives...all glory to His name!’” - Pastor Heckmann



An Easter Prayer from the ELCA

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!
Pastor Chelsey Weech

Council President Greetings

Hello members of FLC!

Greetings and blessings from my family to yours! What a difference a month makes. In March we were talking about Lent and how absence makes the heart grow fonder. Little did we know then how much we would be giving up. Well, now we have reached Easter. Now happens to be the moment in our church year that brings the most hope. Now is when we should be counting our blessings as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection! Our church is blessed with wonderful leadership from our council and our pastor. We are blessed to have each other. We are blessed to be able to communicate with one another through mail, phone

calls, Facebook, email, and other ways. I hope that as you celebrate Easter you take time to think about the blessings in your life. Thank you all for being a blessing and Happy Easter!

Jason Robshaw

Note from the Office

Hello everyone,

Today I send you all greetings from the office. Well, we have all made it to April. With all the changes that are happening around the world, it is a nice thing to be able to say. Since mid-March all of our daily normal lives have been changing. I have been working from home and a few days actually in the office. Jason and Pastor have helped me get the technology set up. As we all have been trying to figure out how we move forward, there have been many phone calls and emails.

I have truly enjoyed seeing Pastor and Chris' sermons online. The "where am I in church" in the online streams have been fun. I've enjoyed seeing everyone's comments. All of the small hint photos I have figured out, even the coat rack. Those photographers are getting so challenging.

This month I will be looking forward to the mail as we receive the hearts for the project that the Sunday School families are participating in. The hearts will be hung in the FLC windows, so be sure to take look as you drive or walk by. Great job kids! We are also checking the mail for any of your offerings that you have mailed. Thank you for always supporting FLC.

I thank you all for your well wishes and prayers. You all have been in mine also. I am looking forward to seeing everyone, in person, again and hopefully soon. I know Pastor wants to stay healthy and is always concerned about the germs and her Cystic Fibrosis. Let's all continue to be the good social distancing people.

Thank you for myself and my family,
Brenda, Administrative Assistant

March 10th Council Minutes

Treasurer's Report: January balances:

Monthly Deposits	\$18,773.08
Monthly Expenses	\$11,672.23
Current Gen. Fund Balance . . .	\$72,663.32

Minutes: Approved and are as follows...

Pastor Chelsey's Report: January pastoral acts: 4 worship, 1 funeral, 4 meetings with Brenda, 4 confirmation, council and committee meetings, CHAT meeting, 1st Call Theological meeting, VBS meeting with Christa, United Christians of P-town, Turner wedding and planning meeting, Allure service, WELCA, President Pastor meeting, Synod meeting in Dixon and Lent meeting with Pastor Bree. She had 6 visits with members outside of church and 4 dinner, lunch or coffee visits.

January mileage was 277.40.

President's Report: Plans to meet with absent council members to give an overview of the meeting.

Evangelism and Christian Education: Informational Bible Study meeting after church is planned. First VBS meeting was held on Sun. Feb. 9th with 17 people attending, VBS is July 27-31. Need two stations filled and a preschool director. First Communion (Is on hold because of Coronavirus closing).

Property: Discussed the security system, looked at estimates - approved \$5,395.00 for system. Carpet cleaning March 4th.

Stewardship and Finance: Finalized the FLC Ethics Policy. Continued working on the FLC Internal Controls Policy.

Worship and Music: Picked out hymns for April. New choir folders have arrived.

Old Business: Discussed a HR position, about background checks and who and when do we do them. Discussed pictorial directory with offering the picture taking to current members of the congregation who specialize in those services. More discussion about the top two results (church basement renovations and offering to Synod) of Parker family memorial money survey.

New Business: Pastor Chelsey's father-in-law made us Mission Statement and Core Value banners. A thank you will be sent.

FLC Anniversary

On March 7, 1880 was the date First Lutheran Church began the organizing of the congregation. On September 19, 1880 a special meeting was held to build a church at 217 Douglas Street, Prophetstown. We were called The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. On November 1, 1880 the 20' x 32' church was finished.

1884 - Our first class of Sunday School was confirmed

1885 – The start of the organization of the Ladies Aid – Sewing Society

1893 - An addition was built on the south end of church adding 20'x32' more feet

1897 - Luther League organized

1900 - Parsonage completed next to church

1911 - The old board benches were replace with pews. Remodeled inside of church

1912 - North half of the basement was dug

1914 - Swedish services in morning and English services in evening

1923 - Swedish was omitted from church name. Front wooden steps from the street were replaced with concrete steps

1928 - Full basement completed

1930 - Swedish services discontinued in our 50th anniversary year

1950 - 300 West Third Street property purchased for new church and rented out until removed

1957 - Work began to dismantle the old rental house on the property

June 1,1958 - Laying of the corner stone

April, 1959 - Dedicated new church

So many hands, hearts and talents have brought us all together. More information to come about FLC as we celebrate this 140th anniversary year.

Prayer Concerns during March

Sandy Plautz, Faye Finck, Gary Hinrichs, Luanne McDivitt, Betty Lou Olsen, Burdette Sandrock, Pete Frank, Carole & Dick Minssen, Eli Edward grandson of Kellie Larrabee, Linda Dodder friend of JoDee Olsen, Pat Genung mother of Gayle Melton, Lee Ann Trexler sister of Kerry Meyer, Brian Walberg brother-in-law of Donna Roland, Jeannette George mother of Jake Vahle, Caleb Cleaver great nephew of Lynda & Larry VanDyke, Rick Chapman husband of Mindy Chapman, Scott Lyman son-in-law of Ken & Ellen Pannier.

Community Members: Randy Behrens, Kay Bolt, Darla Corbin, Phil Crossman, Sammy Hodgett, Mark Sandrock.

Serving in the Military: Charlie Davis grandson of Ken & Ellen Pannier, Brett Emery and Sean Pratt sons of Drew & Becky Emery, Donnie Appleman son-in-law of Larry & Lynda VanDyke, Lindsey Gardner niece of Gwen Gardner, Patrick Kelly grandson of Kathy Kelly, Anna Olsen wife of Kent Olsen, Max Sampson grandson and Kyle Ullmark grandson-in-law of Glenda Sampson, Madison Scace great granddaughter of Burdette & Dea Sandrock.

Prayers to Judy & Aaron Johnson and family on the passing of her sister Janice Brandt.

Prayers to Sally & Denny Johnson and family on the passing of her sister Carolyn Cathelyn's husband Dr. Julio Ramos.

Prayers to Marlene Scott and family on the passing of her son Brian Scott.

FLC April Holy Week Services

As we continue our social distancing because of the Coronavirus closings we ask that you keep Holy Week in your thoughts and prayers. We may not be together right now but we will have many ways to stay connected. Please watch Facebook (First Lutheran Church of Prophetstown), your email and our FLC website ([www. www.firstlutheran-ptown.org](http://www.firstlutheran-ptown.org)) for prayers and services. Some will be live and some will be recorded. We wish you Peace!

Palm Sunday 5th Maundy Thursday 9th Good Friday 10th Easter 12th

Giving to FLC

Bishop Clements recently emailed about reminding us all about continuing to give to FLC and the Synod.

“Your gifts keep your congregation strong. This is a financially challenging time and many have their income drastically cut. I have long encouraged first-fruits proportional giving - the top or giving to God first. This can be a set percentage that fluctuates up and down with income. Give electronically if your church is set up for it or mail a check to your church office. Also, and this is critically important, continue to financially support your church as we continue to gather remotely. Your church, this synod, and our ELCA are completely dependent upon your generosity. Your gifts make local, synodical, national, and international ministries possible. Your gifts support your church’s staff, the synod staff, and the Churchwide staff and work that they all do.

Your FLC giving can be mailed to church or online giving details may be found on our website.

Hello Sunday School kiddos!

I hope that this note finds you all having fun at home with your families! I have enjoyed following your adventures online and wanted to tell you how much I miss seeing your faces at Sunday School. Keep working hard on your school work at home and keep playing outside. We love you all and can’t wait until we are able to be together again!
Christa Robshaw, Superintendent

Sunday School Heart Project

Help us to spread love to all and do social distancing in a fun way with this community, and country, scavenger hunt. Students please mail us your paper hearts to hang in our windows. We hope everyone will be looking as they drive or walk by.

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.

Faye Finck–21st Shirley Jensen–28th Nancy Plautz–30th

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

Thank You

On March 24th we marked the 20th anniversary for Randy Roland of being our choir director. So many hymns and memories. When you see him tell him, Thank You!

FLC Looking for Someone to Mow

We are looking for someone to mow the church and the lot. If interested please contact Gary Hinrichs.

Garage Sale Cancelled

It has been decided to cancel the Garage Sale for this year. With the statewide closure of all events we feel this is the only safe decision. We hope maybe next year to be able to have a sale. Thank You!

Fall Craft Show Cancelled

Due to the current situation with the Covid-19 Virus and the prediction of it making a comeback in the fall, it is the decision of the Craft Show Board of Directors to cancel the FLC Arts, Crafts, & Vendor Show which is scheduled for Sat. Nov. 7th. We thank you for your past support in helping us to have successful shows and apologize for any inconvenience the cancelation may cause. We want you to know that our decision was made with the best interest of the general public’s health in mind. We pray that you and yours are healthy and safe now and throughout the year. God Bless!



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

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