

First Lutheran Church

300 W. 3rd St.-Prophetstown, IL 61277

Phone: 815-537-2758

December, 2020 – FLC Newsletter

Greetings Church Family,

“Angels we have heard on high. Singing sweetly o'er the plains. And the mountains in reply. Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis deo. Gloria in excelsis deo.” I shared these lyrics hoping this would be a familiar tune for you. I know we are a musical and skilled church, so I wonder if you aren't already humming to the tune of this song. It's funny as a child, I always loved this song and boy would I sing it loudly and proudly. Especially during the chorus, *GLOOOOOOOOOOOOria in Chelsey's Dayooooo!* Wait...are those not the real lyrics?! I'm certain that's what the singer was saying. Well...you guessed it. I used to love this song because I thought it was made especially for me. When the choir would sing the correct lyrics, I would be way off key and loudly shouting it's *Chelsey's dayo*. We can all think of fond or funny memories during the month of December. Caroling, hanging up the Christmas lights, baking warm Christmas cookies, decorating the house with stockings and checking off the holiday shopping list. Christmas reminds us of beautiful memories from the past and we also celebrate wonderful new memories of the present. It's a season to be generous, loving, and full of cheer.

I know this year will look so different for all of us. We miss our friends, family and loved ones. It's been over a year now since I've seen my mom and over a year since Chris has seen his dad in Florida. We all have someone who lives far away, and we wish we could be with them. I pray for a blanket of comfort over our church family during these trying times. And it's even harder during the holidays. Each year we await the birth of Jesus Christ, coming into this world to save us all. But I think this year we are waiting...we are waiting for a new reason. We are waiting for Jesus to help us find a vaccine. We are waiting for Christ to heal our sorrows. We are waiting for Jesus to wipe away our tears. This year especially, our waiting feels even more heavy. But the Good News today is that Christ can lift this burden for us. He is the strongest person we know, the ultimate body builder and our divine healer. In moments when we feel sadness or despair, just know that Christ is right next to you offering you a tissue. Christ is right there giving you a shoulder to cry on and right there giving you a hug. Something we all miss so desperately and wish we could give to everyone.

This Christmas season I choose to hold onto hope and positivity, even when it may seem hard. I see my hope in you all. I see the love and compassion of our church family and that is what keeps me smiling each and every day. You all can move mountains and I have witnessed it. You all are the ones who truly make this season so full of joy. No matter how you celebrate the holidays this year, please remember that Jesus is with you always. That's the Good News I'm happy to sing loudly and proudly, even if I'm off tune. So...go ahead...sing your heart out this Christmas season. *Go tell it on the mountain!* To quote my favorite movie Elf, *the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear*. We might not be able to carol together or sing in our choir, but that doesn't mean you can't find creative ways to spread the Good News. Sing loudly in your homes, during your Zoom meetings, for our recorded worship services or even on the phone with your loved ones. Find something that brings you small moments of cheer and happiness this season. And as always, know that I give thanks for our FLC family and for the amazing ministries that happen in and through First Lutheran Church because of you. Have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!
God's Peace, Pastor Chelsey Weech

December Worship and Events

Dec. 6 – Parking Lot Worship & Communion at 9 a.m.

Dec. 6 – Zoom Annual Meeting at 10:30 am

Dec. 8 – Zoom Council Meeting at 8 p.m.

Dec. 13 – Online Recorded Christmas Youth Program at 9 a.m.

Dec. 19 – Bell Ringing at Shaw's 10-1 p.m.

Dec. 20 – Parking Lot Worship & Communion at 9 a.m.

Dec. 24 – Pre-Recorded service at 5 p.m.

Dec. 24 – Parking Lot Christmas Eve Church Service at 7 p.m.

Christmastime Worship

We will be releasing a pre-recorded Youth Christmas Program service on Dec. 13th at 9am. It will be posted on our church Facebook page and website. It will involve readers and special music from our entire FLC Youth Group!

We will also be releasing a Christmas Eve pre-recorded service at 5:00 p.m. on December 24th that will have special music from our congregation members, as well as readers who want to be a part of this. If you want to volunteer to read or record a special music piece for this service, please contact Pastor Chelsey.

The fun doesn't stop there! We will be having a parking lot church service at 7pm on December 24th, Christmas Eve. We will still have offering, communion, singing, and even a candlelight service. **However, this year we invite your candlelights to be electric this year.** We want to be safe while we are in our cars, so please feel free to bring your own electric candle. This can be your phone or anything that emits a pretty glow during the Silent Night song. We know the holidays will look different this year, but I am happy we can have many different options to worship and celebrate Christmas this year. We hope you can join us for our online services, as well as our parking lot services.

November 10th Council Minutes

Online Zoom Meeting

Treasurer's Report: October balances:

Deposits \$14,849.79 Expenses \$26,473.65 Current General Fund Balance \$73,765.96

Discussed the Parker CD renewal. Received \$1,000 grant for VBS from FNB. Scholarships- Ross Purvis, Carsen Farral, Sean Sandrock and Clayton Johnson each received \$200 scholarship. Three more outstanding scholarships- wondering what to do with it, decided to leave it open. Ask Brenda to create one last reminder email.

October Minutes: Approved and follows.

Pastor Chelsey's Report: Discussed youth activities and email sent out to the entire church. Attendance and views are doing well online. Reserved Oct. 25th for outdoor Eclipse Square worship at 11a.m.

President's Report: Nothing specific. Reference Old and New Business.

Evangelism and Christian Ed Report: Reported on Sunday School happenings. Discussed the 1st Communion and cookies for that event. Jason helped clear up the miscommunication from the Around P-town article from Tara Miller, we are not letting go of our events, example Trunk or Treat, just creating them in a safe way for our youth and church. We are still having all of our youth events, just altered to what works for our church family.

Property Report: Rick & Ann Woolums raked leaves at the church for the third time. Canceled sealed coating until spring, a good thing we didn't do this because city is ripping up the alley. Landscaping for the parsonage- put it off. Called two people and never got a response. Rick Woolums discussed prices and details for these parsonage trimmings and landscaping. He asked if we should complete trimmings at the parsonage. Approved \$1,450 for trimming 3 trees, remove 1 tree.

Stewardship and Finance Report: Created a spreadsheet with calculations for our budgets. It helps determine the *FLC* CD budget. Better financial decisions and help us set aside these funds. Council approved we start with an October CD of \$16,000. Each couple of months we'd have multiple rotating CDs to help us invest and create larger balances. Gives us plenty of cushion if anything should happen. Gives us the best investment option.

Music and Worship: Discussed that they created music and readers for each worship service of the month.

Old Business: Parker CD is renewed-Already discussed. Custodian still needed. The floor was opened for any more old business and no one responded.

New Business: New CD- Already discussed. Budget- act as if we are both keeping budgets like we are still in the church building, while also considering new pandemic things. Such as, postage has increased for weekly service mail outs.

Annual Meeting- scheduled for Dec. 6, the week after the Thanksgiving holiday. Considering it on Zoom. Trouble Shoot with Pastor Coffee Hours. It might be a challenge, but we hope to have both on zoom. Jason really wants to have our Annual Meeting and he hopes that this will work. He asked for suggestions from council members via email.

Cathy Hinrichs - discussed the church web page and that we need to redo and change the entire church page. She has a friend who owns Star Media in Rock Falls and she hopes they can set the web page up for us, rebuild it and then turn it over to Cathy. Cathy wants to talk with them about cost and what opportunities this will give us, giving us a new theme and web format. Jason approved and suggests that Cathy should take this further and discuss these details with Star Media. "Go for it!"

Jason Robshaw - Took a picture of council to help the nominating committee call new people for our church council. He mentioned it might pop up on social media soon.

Annual Meeting

First Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be Sunday, December 6th at 10:30 a.m. for an online Zoom Meeting. This login will be emailed to you.

Church will be held in the parking lot that morning. We are planning to give you enough time to return home to be online for the meeting.

Please be part of this to hear all the good works of First Lutheran and see to your FLC family's faces!

Prayer Concerns during November

Dave Meyer, Virginia Meier, Judy Johnson, Marsha Rogiewicz, Betty Lou Olsen, Faye Finck, Luanne McDivitt, Burdette Sandrock, Carole & Dick Minssen, Ron Roselieb father of Rhonda Bohms, Jane Casanova sister of Amy Jones, Carol Brown sister of Darlene Proeger, Sarah Lewis grand-daughter-in-law of Marlene Scott, Lee Ann Trexler sister of Kerry Meyer, 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: Darla Corbin, 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, Madison Scace great granddaughter of Burdette & Dea Sandrock, Kyle Ullmark grandson-in-law of Glenda Sampson.

Prayers To:

Darlene & Dale Proeger, Bob & Alisha Proeger and families on the passing of Darlene's mother Anna Goering on Wednesday, November 25th.

The family of Jim Wiersema who passed away on Monday, November 23rd.

The family of Sylvia Melby who passed away on Saturday, November 21st.

Donna & Randy Roland, Amanda Schanze and Mary Roland and families on the passing of Donna's mother Jane Bender on Thursday, November 12th.

Jeff Albrecht and Pat Albrecht and families on the passing of their daughter and granddaughter Hillary Wagenecht-Albrecht on Monday, November 9th.

Sean Pratt, Stephanie Wankerl and Brett Emery and families on the passing of their grandfather Lester Pratt on Wed. Oct. 28th.

Parking Lot Worships: We started Sunday worship in our parking lot. Every one stays in their cars and tunes their radio to 95.1 FM to hear the complete service. Everyone wears face masks, stays safe, warm and toasty. There will be no coffee before and no fellowship after the service, but you can bring your own beverages and snacks to eat in the car! This will be held every 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday for the foreseeable future. These services will be available LIVE online and also recorded to view later at any time. We know everyone is at different comfort levels during this pandemic, so if you are not ready to join us yet, that is completely understandable. This is a safe way to be meaningful for all. We think of you often and hope whether it be online or in person, we see you soon. All are welcome!

Parking Lot Worship 95.1 FM

December Readers

6 – Kyle Turner 13 – Rosemary Sibley, Marilyn Melton
20 – Joan Johnson 27 – Karen Buck

Scripture Readings for December

December 6th Advent 2

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

December 13th Advent 3

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20th Advent 4

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

December 24th Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20

December 27th Christmas 1

Isaiah 61:10—62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

FLC Library

Before our closure due to Covid you may have checked out some books from our library. If you would like to return them please place in our mail box at the front door. There is no hurry in returning these and also no book fees are ever due. Keep reading, stay safe and healthy.

Thank You for your Response to the Hat & Mitten Tree

Wow FLC, you came through again! Thank you so much for the donations to the Hat & Mitten Tree. Everything was delivered to our Unit Dist. 3 grade schools on November 23rd. These will go a long way in benefiting the children of our communities. In the end we received 75 Stocking Hats, 28 Sets of Gloves & Hats, 112 Pairs of Gloves/Mittens, 10 pairs of Sweatpants, 13 pairs of Socks. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving and a Wonderful Christmas Season! Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.

Blessings to all, FLAG

December 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.

Charlotte Ackerman – 3rd

Stan Jensen – 8th

Neva Emery – 17th

Ethel Jensen – 20th

Viola Powell – 24th

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

Salvation Army Bell Ringing on Sat. Dec. 19th FLC will ring the bell from 10am – 1pm at Shaw's Marketplace for this yearly collection. Stop by and say Hi!

Custodian Needed: We are in the need of a custodian. Please contact us to apply for this part time position.

N IL Synod office has reminded us that effective August 3rd the former synod office in Rockford on State Street is no longer in operation and that telephone number has been disconnected. Ms. Nancy Corey remains working in the Rock Island office and will help you with any questions. The remainder of the synod staff is working from home. The new synod address and telephone number are:

Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA Augustana College - Sorensen Hall 322

639 38th Street Rock Island, IL 61201

NIS main phone number 309-794-4004 Website: nisynod.org

(Be sure to look at the opening photo on the Synod website. As of today it is the ordination of Pastor Chelsey!)

FLC Trunk or Treat Drive Thru

On Friday, October 30th we had our drive thru for Trunk or Treat. FLC families arrived at their slotted times for keeping with the health regulations. We were so happy to see our youth and what creative costumes. We are planning to have our yearly community Trunk or Treat next year with all the fun activities.

Advent: Hope • Peace • Joy • Love



Nativity • Christ Is Born



Cancellations

Due to Covid 19 we are still keeping the building closed for the time being. The church continues to share the good news and the Gospel, because the church is not just found within the building. The church is found within all of its members as we continue to care for and lift up all of those that God has entrusted to our flock. Please watch for any changes as we continue protect the health of our members and community.

Cancellations

- All Church Events and Activities
- All Outside Groups Events
- All Use of the Building
- Arts, Crafts & Vendor Show – Nov. 7

Contact Us

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Pastor Chelsey Weech

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Mission Statement

(New revised statement)...

First Lutheran Church family welcomes, nurtures, serves and sends in the name of Jesus Christ.

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