

First Lutheran Church

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

Phone: 815-537-2758

February, 2022 – FLC Newsletter

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

1Thessalonians 5

Happy February Everyone!

I hope this letter finds you warm and healthy! When winter seems especially cold, my favorite thing to do is read a good book, grab a soft blanket and cuddle with my dog. What are your favorite winter activities? Are they active like snowboarding, sledding or skiing? Or maybe it's more relaxing like staying in and watching a new television show or movie? Whatever you favor during the winter, I hope it brings you cheer. Winter can be a time where sadness and fatigue begin to occur. We miss the summer's sun. We feel exhausted after preparing and celebrating Christmas and the New Year. After our busy fall season, we can feel a bit drained. Fatigue is not the only emotion we might feel. When snow begins to fall, we aren't able to travel as much, making it harder to visit with our friends and family. We might feel lonely, isolated or secluded. I challenge us this winter to not hold on to that sorrow, instead let us hold on to the truth that we are

never alone. Christ is always there for us, and he is the one who always gives us strength. This is the strength that pulls us out of a rut and brings us total joy. This is the strength that keeps us warm, even during these cold months. I believe that even if we feel frozen, exhausted or sad, as many of us do after the Christmas season, Christ warms our hearts. May this Good News bring you the gladness and coziness you deserve. Please join us for Ash Wednesday on March 2nd at 7pm! All are welcome.

Loving God, give us patience and faith, especially when our path seems difficult, and life is full of grief and hardship. You are light. You show us the right path. Protect us on all our ways. May your kingdom grow among us until it can be plainly seen that you, O God, are truly with us doing your work and bringing us joy, even though what we do seems fruitless. But your love endures. In your work we rejoice, and we want to give thanks to you every day. Amen -Plough Daily Prayer

Blessings,

Pastor Chelsey Weech



President's Corner

Welcome to 2022. May God's Light guide your way throughout the year. With the beginning of the new year, comes a few changes within FLC. On January 16th we installed our new church council members. We welcome and thank all new and returning members, Donna Roland, Drew Emery, Amy Jones, Paul McCracken, Kerry Meyer, Pam Strike, Heather Strike, Jake Thompson, Katie Turner, Stephanie Wankerl, and Michelle Wetzell. Thank you also to those whose terms came to an end, Trent Buck, Katia Butler, Randy Roland, Sabrina Sonnenberg and Rick Woolums. We gratefully appreciate everyone's dedication, care, and love in service to First Lutheran and our Lord and Savior.

Another big change taking place is the remodeling of the church Fellowship Hall and basement. The updates being made will be enjoyed by all for many years to come. Thank you to those that have and continue to share their time and talents in this massive project.

May the Lord bless all of you in the coming year.

Cathy Hinrichs, FLC Council President

January 11th Council Meeting

December 14th Council Minutes:

Approved and follows...

Treasurer's Report: November balances:

Monthly Deposits: \$18,833.45

Monthly Expenses: \$12,468.63 Current

General Fund Balance: \$80,465.97 CD 001

..... \$16,120.35

CD February 2021 \$16,071.91

CD June 2021 \$16,020.16

Grinnell Insurance has added a \$5.00 surcharge to monthly payments. It was decided to pay off the remaining balance and to pay them annually. When Pastor Greg Olson was here on November 21st he said to donate his guest pastor fee to the Prophetstown Food Pantry. A motion was passed to donate his fee of \$160.00.

Pastor Chelsey's Report: November - 4 in person services and Community Thanksgiving worship service at Methodist Church. Meetings: Council, committees, Youth & Family Coordinator, Women's Conference, WELCA, Synod conference zoom meeting, CHAT, Mitten Tree, and a special music meeting with Aaron Johnson.

Pastor will be gone January 30 to February 11. Jeff Roman from SonRise Bible Church will lead worship Sunday, Feb. 6th.

President's Report: Nothing to report.

Evangelism & Christian Education:

Planning to do cookies on Jan. 9, 2022.

Property: New doors on basement restrooms have been cut and installed. A firebox with a church key has been installed at front of church for emergencies.

Stewardship: Nothing to report. Thanked Randy Roland for his guidance.

Worship & Music: Picked hymns for January. Michelle Wetzell volunteered to contact readers.

Old Business: The roof loan payoff is \$19,671.18. Will pass this information on to Endowment Committee.

New Business: Christa Robshaw stated the computer she has been using is way out of date, a motion passed to purchase a new laptop up to \$800. Brenda's office computer also needs to be updated, motion passed to purchase a new desktop computer up to \$1,600.

Executive Committee for 2022

Our council has elected these members to be our executive committee for 2022.

President – Cathy Hinrichs

Vice-President – Amy Jones

Treasurer – Drew Emery

Secretary – Katie Turner

We thank these members and the rest of the council for their commitment for the year.

Ash Wednesday to Easter

*Ash Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. March 2nd

*Lent Worship Services – Wed. nights at 7:00 p.m. March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6

*Palm Sunday – 9:00 a.m. April 10th

*Maundy Thursday – April 14th

*Good Friday – 7:00 p.m. April 15th

*Easter – 9:00 a.m. April 17th

Confirmation Class

Each week class is at 7:00 p.m. @ FLC

2nd & 9th – No Classes

16th – Great & Grandparents Night

23rd – Class with Methodist Church @ FLC

FLC Blueprints

In the back of the sanctuary, on the cork board, we have posted the original blueprints for the altar. There have been only a few changes since then. The laying of the corner stone for this building was on June 1, 1958. This is an interesting look to our past.

Sunday Caring Collection

First Lutheran will have a collection for the Prophetstown Food Pantry on Sunday, February 13th following worship. Our youth will be at the doors to receive your monetary donations. Let's come together FLC to feed the hungry!

Community VBS

On Sunday, February 20th at 7:00 p.m. there will be a planning meeting here for this summer's community VBS Rocky Railway. For any questions please talk with Christa Robshaw. Please plan to attend.

Prayer Concerns during January

JoAnne Cocking, Jan Carlson-she has improved, Ann Deck, Stan Urban, Betty Lou Olsen, Faye Finck, Luanne McDivitt, Burdette Sandrock, Dick Minssen, Charlotte great-niece of Jeanne Frank, Vivian Johnson grandmother of Jason Schanze, Kathy Rae Deason and Lee Ann Trexler sisters of Kerry Meyer, Ron Roselieb father of Rhonda Bohms, Caleb Cleaver great nephew of Lynda VanDyke, Rick Chapman husband of Mindy Chapman, Scott Lyman son-in-law of Ken & Ellen Pannier.

Community Member:

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:

Jake & Megan Thompson and family on the passing of Jake's grandmother Sharon Cunningham on Monday, January 3rd.

February Worship and Events

6 - 9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

8 - 7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings

8:00 p.m. Council Meeting

13 - 7:30 a.m. Men in Mission

9:00 a.m. Worship

Souper Bowl of Caring Collection

10:15 am Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Cookies To Go

14 - 1:30 p.m. WELCA in Narthex

6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

15 - 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Formation

16 - 7:00 p.m. Confirmation with Grandparents and Great Grandparents

20 - 9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

5:30 p.m. H.S. Sunday School

7:00 p.m. VBS Planning Meeting @ FLC

21 - 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

23 - 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

27 - 9:00 am Worship

28 - 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

February Assisting: Ushers: Randy Skelton, Drew Emery, Paul McCracken

Altar: Lynda VanDyke, Becky Emery, JoDee Olsen, Stephanie Wankel

Cantor: Paul McCracken

Readers: 6 – Jason Robshaw 13 – Amanda Schanze
 20 – Dave Meyer 27 – Jeanne Frank

Acolytes: 6 – Taylor Robshaw 13 – Miley Wetzell
 20 – Cam Linden 27 – Miley Wetzell

Basement Remodel

Thank you!! Thank you to everyone who has emptied and sorted items in the basement to be ready for the extensive remodel. Thank you everyone who stayed after church on Sunday, January 16th to bring the new flooring boxes into the basement, empty the side rooms and take down all the tables and chairs. The painting of the whole basement began on Wed. Jan. 19th by the painting contractor. All the new flooring is being laid. The restrooms are closed as they have been emptied and starting their remodel. Please refrain from going to the basement. All meetings and groups are asked to not use any areas of the basement at this time.

February 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.

Orval Johnson – 28th

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

WELCA

The next general meeting will be held on Monday, February 14th at 1:30 p.m. in the church narthex. All women members of the church are invited. Bible leader will be Lynda VanDyke.

Men in Mission: The next meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 13th at 7:30 a.m.

Spiritual Formation: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to be involved and grow your spirituality.



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Contact Us:

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Website: www.firstlutheran-ptown.org

Facebook: First Lutheran Church of Prophetstown

Pastor Chelsey Weech Cell: 815-499-3217 Email: ptownflcpastor@gmail.com

Mission 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