

First Lutheran Church

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

Phone: 815-537-2758

January, 2022 – FLC Newsletter

Dear Friends of First Lutheran,

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Matthew 2: 10-11

As we begin a new year in our calendars and a new season of Epiphany, we are thinking of new beginnings. Isn't it amazing how many times we have had new beginnings and new adjustments to our lives in the past year (more like a year and a half since the pandemic began). Every time you turn on the news or read the newspaper, it always seems to tell us upsetting things. But I want us to remain hopeful and joyful because Epiphany is a time to reflect and celebrate how we are part of God's call in the world and in our own neighborhoods.

As we begin a new year of hope together, I invite you to focus your time on love and kindness. In a world that can focus so heavily on hate and hostility, I think kindness will go a long way.

God: How do we change the world?

Evan Baxter: One single act of random kindness at a time.

God: [spoken while writing A-R-K on the ground with a stick] One Act of, Random, Kindness.

From "Evan Almighty"

The movie about Noah's ARK.

Love can make this world a brighter and more compassionate place for all people.

Not only will you be carrying out God's mission into the world, but you will bring care and blessings into the lives of your community. I pray that you and your families have a very Blessed and Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Pastor Chelsey Weech



December 14th Council Meeting

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

November 9th Council Minutes:

Approved and follows...

Pastor Chelsey's Report: Community Thanksgiving will be held Tues. Nov. 23rd at the Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m.

President's Report: Nothing to report, no changes.

Evangelism & Christian Education:

Planning to do cookies and coffee during Pastor Greg Olson's visit on November 21st. Announced that the Christmas Program will be held on December 12th.

Property: Incoming water main was dug up on the south corner of the church to fix the water problem, thank you to Jim Fisk for his efforts for getting this dug up. 50 boxes of new flooring have an ETA of 11-12-21, Kyle Turner will coordinate to get the boxes to the basement. Rest of the flooring will be in, in late December. All the parts for plumbing are in at Hinrichs Plumbing, with installation at a later date.

Stewardship: Proposed an increase in pay for Pastor Chelsey's cell phone from \$300 to \$1,500 per year. Motion was passed.

Worship & Music: Dec. hymns selected. A discussion was held to see if the Memorial Committee would be interested in helping purchase a cabinet to store all of the band equipment in the back of the sanctuary, to be located next to the sound cabinet. Another discussion was that the congregation couldn't see the children during the children's sermon when the band plays. Recommended to at least lower the music stands when the band plays.

Old Business:

*2022 Budget: Synod support to remain the same, organists considered an employee not a 1099 Employee. For the custodial and secretary there is a proposed 3% raise. Treasurer Randy Roland proposed that custodial wage be increased to \$15.45/ hour and secretarial wage \$18.02 / hour, effective January 1, 2022. Motion passed.

*Randy proposed that 710 & 711 line items be added to the budget in order to reflect the updated line items that are currently on the budget that are not being reported. Jake Thompson talked about moving the CD purchase from the P & L, current interest earned from the CD was categorized under 340 (Other receipts).

*Parsonage Roof Repair: will be reassessed in the spring of 2022.

*Motion passed to accept the 2022 budget from tonight's meeting to be presented in the Annual Meeting on December 5, 2021.

New Business:

*Changing key locks on doors will occur after tonight's meeting, with a scheduled unlock time. Recommend changing the velcro strap on ramp doors to a bright color to ensure that the door is not left unlocked.

*Education Assistance Program: Proposed \$1,000 to be paid directly to Fed Loan (loan service provider) for Pastor Chelsey, each year, effective 1-1-22, motion passed.

*Vice President: Looking for a council member to step into this position.

New Council and Installation

There will be an installation of the Church Council on Sunday, January 16th during worship at 9:00 a.m. All Council members please attend.

We thank our members who are going off of Council for your dedication to FLC: Trent Buck, Katia Butler, Rick Woolums, Randy Roland, and Sabrina Sonnenberg.

We welcome new council members: Drew Emery, Amy Jones – Continuing with another three years term, Donna Roland – Replacement to finishing two more years.

We thank our other Council members as they continue to finish their years of the three year commitment: Cathy Hinrichs–1 yr, Paul McCracken–1 yr, Kerry Meyer–2 yrs, Heather Strike–1 yr, Pam Strike–1 yr, Jake Thompson–2 yrs, Katie Turner-2 yr, Stephanie Wankerl–1 yr, Michelle Wetzell-1 yr.

Prayer Concerns during December

JoAnne Cocking, Jan Carlson, Ann Deck, Stan Urban, Betty Lou Olsen, Faye Finck, Luanne McDivitt, Burdette Sandrock, Dick Minssen, 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 Scafe great granddaughter of Burdette & Dea Sandrock, Kyle Ullmark grandson-in-law of Glenda Sampson.

New Arrival:

Leah Luella Larson was born to Luke & Kelli Larson on Dec. 9th. Grandparents are Ed & Kim Larson.

Prayers To:

JoDee & Jeff Olsen, Jessica Howard and Kent Olsen and families on the passing of JoDee's father Leonard Finck on Monday, December 20th.

The family of community member Ron Buck who passed away on Monday, December 20th.

New Members

We have a new member class. If you would like to join our FLC family please let the office know. On January 9th will be a membership presentation.

Confirmation in January

12th – 6:30 pm Mentors, Review, Treats, White Elephant Exchange

Students: Bring a wrapped, funny gift from home for the exchange in the \$5-10 price range and your favorite ice cream topping.

19th and 26th – 7:00 p.m. Class

Pastor Chelsey's Pastoral Acts

January – December 2021

Baptisms

5-22-21 Calvin Bradley Blumenshine

5-18-21 Wrenley Vera Olsen

8-1-21 Kaito Denali Butler

11-28-21 Charlotte Rae Zais

Received Bibles:

3rd Graders - Wyatt Hinrichsen, Reeselynn Linden, Carter Malone

4th Graders - Leena Hanrahan, Turner Melton, Drew Robshaw, Brevin VanDyke

First Communion: 4-7-21

Ellie Glassgow, Mya Haggard, Lauren Malone, Mason Minssen, Gavin VanDyke

Confirmed: 10-10-21

10th Graders - Kennedy Buck, Owen Farral

Funerals

2-4-21 Milton L. Olsen

5-20-21 Nancy M. Boehm

9-1-21 Carole A. Minssen

12-23-21 Leonard E. Finck

Thank You's

Kyle & Katie Turner – Stain and seal the new basement bathroom doors.

Ian & Stephanie Wankerl – Fall landscape clean up at the drive up ramp and the corner lot at Locust and East 2nd Street.

Rick & Ann Woolums – A new folding table to use for worship needs, it's easy to carry and move.

John Larson, Bob Anderson, Kyle Turner, Becky Emery, Pam Strike, Chris Weech, Gary Hinrichs, Woolums, Jones Snow Plowing, and anyone we may have missed, for taking care of the church and corner lot yards. Thank you for all the seasons of pulling and killing weeds, mowing, raking leaves, salting sidewalks and snow removal.

January Worship and Events

2 - 9:00 a.m. Worship & Communion; NO Sunday School

3 - 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

9 – 7:30 a.m. Men in Mission

9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:15 am Sun. Sch.

10:15 a.m. Coffee & Cookies

10:15 a.m. Remove Christmas Decorations

10 - 1:30 p.m. WECA Meeting

6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

11 – 7pm Comm. Mtgs. 8pm Council Mtg.

12 – 6:30 p.m. Confirmation w/ Mentors,

Scheduled Christmas Party

16 – 9:00 a.m. Worship & Communion

Install Council Members

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

17 – 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

18 – 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Formation

19 – 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

23 – 9:00 am Worship

24 – 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

26 – 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

30 – 9:00 a.m. Worship

31 – 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

January Assisting

Ushers: Gary & Cathy Hinrichs, Orval Johnson

Altar: Ann Woolums, Sue Skelton, Cathy Hinrichs

Cantor: Randy Roland

Readers

- 2 – Vicki Ottens
- 9 – Marcia Chamberlain
- 16 – Joan Johnson
- 23 – Aaron Johnson
- 30 – Donna Roland

Men in Mission

The next meeting for Men in Mission will be held on Sunday, January 9th at 7:30 a.m. All men, members of the church or not, are welcome to join us for breakfast, bible study and discussion.

WELCA

Bible study will be followed by a general meeting at the next meeting to be held on Monday, January 10th at 1:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. All women members of the church are invited. Bible leader will be Rosemary Sibley.

Spiritual Formation

Tuesday 1-18-22 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to be involved and grow your spirituality.

Hay & Mitten Tree

Thank you to everyone who contributed, it's awesome how much you all have supported the students at Prophetstown and Tampico Elementary Schools. All items have been delivered. Hats-48, Gloves-105, Scarves-9, Hat Sets-15, Leggings-6, Socks-28, Undergarments-4 packages. Thank You!

Basement Bathrooms Remodel

The work has begun. On Dec. 14th the contractors cut the door openings larger, to accommodate for the state laws. This was a rather loud and dusty morning. The new doors have been hung. There are many more phases to completion. We thank our Property Committee who are keeping this large project moving along.

January 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.

Jim Hanrahan – 4th Chuck Emery – 9th
Illene Howlett – 13th Avis Chamberlain – 28th

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

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Contact Us:

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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