

First Lutheran Church

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

Phone: 815-537-2758

March, 2022 – FLC Newsletter

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”- Jeremiah 29:11

March Salutations FLC!

God’s peace to you on this day. We’ve had some snow this winter, some intense winds and some beautiful sunshine and warmth this winter. I remember last week when it was a sunny day; the weather was in the 60s and all I had to do was wear a light sweater. Yippee!! It’s so funny because when it comes to this winter season, we have a range of emotions. Many enjoy the cold weather and take this time to work in the shop, catch up on their to-do lists or visit friends and family. And then we have other members that can’t wait for winter to end, so they can start gardening and preparing for spring! No matter how you view this time of the year, we can always look forward to Lent. It’s a time to remind us what God promises us each and every day- unending love and forgiveness.

Chris asked me a question the other day that completely threw me off, “how much time do we truly give to God?” I thought he was losing his marbles and I said “Huh?!” And he repeated the question, “seriously, yea I know you’re a pastor and you think about worship, and things you need to do before the end of the week, but how often do we as a family pray or meditate together? How often do we talk about God, that doesn’t include Sunday worship?” And then I started to think, are we making it a point to truly bring God into our daily lives? I was sad to think about it, but my husband was right. Of course we pray before we eat, but is that just us going through the motions or do we actually invite God into our space? Do we actually think about how we are living in this world and are kind to our neighbors? Being a pastor does not excuse us from this, I am always learning, and I am always making mistakes. That’s why I am so incredibly thankful for God’s grace and God’s unconditional love when I’m a mess or I forget things. We all fall short-after all, we are only human! This Lent I challenge myself, my family and all of you. Let us sit more deeply with ourselves and think about how we are living in Christ’s image. I hope to intentionally bring God more into my life this Lenten season. **“Lent is a time of reflection** on our flaws – and also of **hope in God’s enduring promises** of love and forgiveness!” We invite you to join us, Wednesday March 2nd at FLC as we journey together in this walk of faith.

L is for the life Jesus gave us

E is for eternal life with God

N is for never losing faith

T is to trust in Jesus

Christ’s Peace,

Pastor Chelsey Weech

CDC Guidelines

The guidelines have changed on Monday, February 28th. Our executive committee agreed we will follow these mandates to have face masks be optional. Please do what makes you feel comfortable.

We at FLC respect all comfort levels.

January 11th Council Meeting: Approved and as follows...

Treasurer's Report: Drew Emery has stepped into the Treasure position and the monthly Treasure Report was accepted.

Pastor Chelsey's Report: Worship on February 6th will be led by Jeff Roman from SonRise Church in Atkinson when Pastor Chelsey is on vacation. Pastor Chelsey will be attending the Festival of Homiletics on May 15-20. Ash Wednesday is March 2nd.

President's Report: President Cathy Hinrichs welcomed all new council members along with all returning members, reminding everyone that each committee needs to pick a committee chair.

Evangelism & Christian Education: Will have cookies to go on February 13th along with having the Sunday Caring Collection for the Food Pantry.

Property: Basement bathrooms doors are completed and hung, door trim still needs to be completed. The water fountains in the basement and the second floor will be removed. Painting started on Wednesday January 19th (a few days sooner than expected) and will last a few days. The bottom baseboard cove will need to be removed and replaced with new that will be purchased from Menards. Dave Strike is going to be changing out all of the electrical outlets and bringing them all up to date. There is a walnut tree that needs to come down at the parsonage. It is being looked into to see what it is going to cost to have it professionally removed or have a few congregation members remove it. There was also discussion of seeing what can be purchased to have different feet put on the bottoms of all the chairs and tables to prevent the new flooring from getting scuffed up. If this is not an option, looking into buying all new tables and chairs.

Stewardship: September will be stewardship month. They will start the revision/update process of the constitution, along with assisting the Treasurer with the yearly budget and prior duties.

Worship & Music: Four new wood communion tray stands will be built by Mark Melton to replace the current ones. Kyle & Katie Turner are looking into building a new cabinet for band equipment. There is going to be special music two Sunday's each month. The filing cabinets with all of the sheet music are going to be moved in order to complete the basement flooring install.

Old Business: Amy Jones has agreed to take the position of Vice President.

Update on new computers:

Brenda's: Ian Wankerl is in the process of getting a new one ordered.

Christa's: Jason Robshaw has purchased it and it has been delivered.

Annual Meeting minutes were accepted.

Installation of Council Members will be Sunday, January 16th during worship.

New Business: Clean out and organize the church basement on Sunday, January 16th after worship to prepare for the new floor.

Committee Chairs have been selected:

Property: Jake Thompson

Stewardship: Heather Strike

Worship & Music: Donna Roland

Christian Education: Pam Strike

Council Meetings Devotion Schedule – If you need to switch, please let us know



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH – THE ALTAR IS READY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday to Easter

*Ash Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. March 2nd

Community worship, communion, ashes

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

Holden Evening Prayer service will be used and Pastor Chelsey will be here each week.

*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

During Lent there are no weekly classes. The students are required to come to the Lent worship services each Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. @ FLC

March Worship and Events

2 – *Ash Wednesday*: 7:00 p.m. Community Worship, Communion, Ashes

6 - 7:30 a.m. Men in Mission

9:00 a.m. Worship & Communion

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

7 – 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

8 – 7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings

8:00 p.m. Council Meeting

9 – 7:00 p.m. Lent Worship

8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

13 – *Daylight Savings- spring ahead 1hour*

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 am Sunday School

7:00 p.m. VBS Meeting

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. Lent Worship

20 – 9:00 a.m. Worship & Communion

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

21 – 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

23 – 7:00 p.m. Lent Worship

27 – 9:00 am Worship

10:15 a.m. Memorial Committee Meeting

28 – 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

30 - 7:00 p.m. Lent Worship

President's Corner

Will March come in like a lion or a lamb? I know many of us are hoping spring weather is right around the corner. As we approach the days of March, we also prepare ourselves for the Lenten Season.

Our Ash Wednesday communion service will be held on March 2nd at 7:00 pm, followed by Lenten Services every Wednesday night at 7:00 pm up to Holy Week. During the Wednesday night services we will be using the Holden Evening Prayer. We invite you to join us for these special and meaningful services.

The work on the Fellowship Hall is progressing nicely. Thank you to all those that have worked so hard on this project. It is a big undertaking, but one that we all will enjoy for many years to come.

Lenten blessings to you all,

Cathy Hinrichs

Live Stream Worship

As of late we have been having some issues with Facebook Live on Sunday mornings. Facebook has been making a lot of changes to their program which seem to be causing problems in the streaming.

In our efforts to provide a better worship experience for everyone we have switched to YouTube Live.

To view services live go to our website at <https://firstlutheran-ptown.org>. The live stream can be found on the front page. Our Facebook page will also have a link provided that will take you to YouTube. We hope this will be a positive experience so all can worship together, no matter where you are. If there are any future changes, we'll let you know as soon as possible.

FLC Birthday Celebration

On Sunday, April 10th we will celebrate FLC's birthday. At worship the band will play and we will have many pictures through the years on a special power point. We are asking members to bring in photos on March 20-27 to be displayed, please mark your photos for when we return them. There will be fellowship upstairs for this occasion. This day is also Palm Sunday. We will process in with Pastor and the palms. Holy Communion will be served.

Prayer Concerns during February

Marlene Scott, JoAnne Cocking, Ann Deck, Stan Urban, Betty Lou Olsen, Faye Finck, Luanne McDivitt, Burdette Sandrock, Dick Minssen, Charlotte Sperflage great niece of Jeanne Frank, Kathy Rae Deason and Lee Ann Trexler sisters of Kerry Meyer, Caleb Cleaver great nephew of Lynda VanDyke, Rick Chapman husband of Mindy Chapman.

Community Members:

Mark Sandrock, Don Warkins

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, 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.

New Arrival:

On February 2nd Cole Wesley Larson was born to Zach & Megan Larson. Cole is the grandson of Ed & Kim Larson.

Prayers To:

Geri Cassens and Sue & Randy Skelton and families on the passing of Geri's sister Shirley Temple from Arizona on Monday, February 7th.

The family of community member Jim Casson who passed away on Tuesday, February 15th.

Jeanne & Ben Frank, Jerrod & Michelle and family on the passing of Jeanne's mother Lila Becker on Thursday, February 24th.

Thank You

We would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped in any way with all remodeling and updates that have taken place at FLC. Thank you to our Council for your guidance and leading us and the Property Committee for all their work.

The basement was emptied by so many helpers. It is very nice with the new flooring and painting throughout, the new restrooms and ceilings.

We thank the Memorial Committee for the new curtains and blinds in both the offices.

We thank our musicians for your dedication and talents to FLC. Our power point members who make our worship services more welcoming.

We thank all of you at FLC for keeping us in your hearts!

WELCA

The next general meeting will be held on Monday, March 14th at 1:30 p.m. in the church narthex. All women members of the church are invited. Bible leader will be Pastor Chelsey Weech. We will not be using the Gather magazine. Trying something different.

Men in Mission

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 6th at 7:30 a.m.

Spiritual Formation

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

Happy Tails & Confirmation Class

Our Confirmation Class will be going to Happy Tails Humane Society in Rock Falls on Saturday, April 2nd. They are accepting donations thru the month of March that they will take with them that day. The following are the Happy Tails requested items.

Cat Food Wet Cat Food Dry

Cat Toys Cat Treats

Kitty Litter (all kinds)

Dog Toys Dog Treats

March 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.

Darryl Gibson – 17th Ruth Bartlett – 24th Geri Cassens – 27th Virginia Meier – 28th

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

Sunday Caring Collection

Thank you First Lutheran for your monetary donations on Sunday, February 13th for the Prophetstown Food Pantry following worship. Since it was Super Bowl Sunday we had our youth at the doors with separate pots. The Bengals received \$133.88 and the Rams received \$86.00 for a total of \$219.88.

March Assisting

Ushers: Kyle Turner, Rick & Ann Woolums

Altar: Joan Johnson, Karen Buck, Katia Butler

Cantor: Aaron Johnson

Readers

2 - Donna Roland

6 - Amy Jones

9 - Randy Roland

13 - Taylor Robshaw

16 - Drew Emery

20 - Darren Mosher

23 - Jeanne Frank

27 - Rick Woolums

30 - Cathy Hinrichs

Acolytes

6 - Taylor Robshaw

13 - Alex Ottens

20 - Cam Linden

27 - Miley Wetzell

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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