

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!” (Psalm 100:1-2, ESV)*

One of the most awesome events that our church takes part in each year is something called “A Night To Remember.” It is a Special Needs Prom for all those in our area, high school age and older, who are physically or developmentally challenged. It was started by Diane Van Drew in 2018, and was meant to be a one-time affair. But as soon as that first prom was over, the folks who attended began to ask when the next one was going to be. So Diane and her helpers decided to have another “Night To Remember” in 2019, and suddenly it was an annual event! COVID forced the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 proms, but it was back on in 2022. So this year’s special night, on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, will be prom number five.

Lisa and I have been blessed to attend the opening ceremonies for all five of the proms. What a joy it is to watch the attendees walk down the red carpet, as their names are announced and they are cheered on by family and friends. Each prom-goer is given a crown for the evening, because everyone at the event is a King or a Queen. And there are lots of fun things to do. There is face painting, a photo booth, and delicious snacks and treats. But the highlight of the night is the dancing! There is a DJ who plays the music and all of the special guests get out on the floor and have a good time!

When I think about “A Night To Remember,” I picture God above it all, smiling down on those who are involved. He sees people of all ages dancing and laughing and enjoying each other’s company. He sees people from our church and from all over the community, organizing and working and serving, so that the night will be special for everyone. There is no anger, there is no violence, there is no division. There is only joy. It makes me think of the words of the Psalmist. He says to the people of God, “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!”

This is how I picture heaven. I think it will be a place where God’s people sing and dance and praise their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In that place, all challenges will be overcome. All fears will be gone. All tears will be wiped away. It will be “A Night To Remember” for all people, for all eternity. And our special needs friends are giving us a glimpse of the joy right now. In their smiles we see the love of God. And we can’t help but smile back.

Pastor Bill

Office Hours: 9-12 & 1-4 Mon. – Thurs.  
Website: [www.flcprinceton.org](http://www.flcprinceton.org)  
Check us on Facebook.  
Phone: 1-815-875-1685  
Email: [office.flcprinceton@gmail.com](mailto:office.flcprinceton@gmail.com)

*Special announcements for the bulletin, or the screen, need to be to the office **by Thursday morning**. Call, leave a message, email, or drop off a note. **Newsletter deadline** will be the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May.*

**COMMITTEE NIGHT**  
1:30pm MON., Apr. 1 - Worship  
7:00pm - TUESDAY, Apr. 2 - Committees  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
3:30PM - TUESDAY, Apr. 9

**COUNCIL Summary - March 2024:**

The agenda, February minutes, & financial reports were approved.

**Pastor’s Report** – 6 worship services, 4 vacation days in February, 21 meetings & classes, 13 appointments, Wittenberg Door, February Food Challenge, Mobile Food Pantry, Soup & Sandwich Suppers, Holy Week services, Owls Service, Easter Services.

**Admin. Report** – Feb. Sunday attendance 95 / 64 views – Ash Wed 78 / 76 views.

**Property** – Elevator door needs new lock, sump pump under the elevator was replaced, additional cabinet installed in the office, checking into a lightning arrestor to protect various electronics, talked about security measures, more pews repaired, building inspection, recent contributions has put us in position to pay off loan from Endowment, extensive repairs coming for old boiler. Council asked Property to set up a Task Force to discuss security measures.

**Service & Mission** – Feb. Mobile Food Pantry served 153 household & 398 people, Old Wheels Show is June 15, Glenn Allen will be honored on a dash plaque, Old Wheels will host Easter Breakfast, March benevolence will be paid to Gideons, Second Story, and Edpowerment for a total of \$2250, we decided to do the Abigail Women’s Center Baby Bottle Collection.

**Outreach & Fellowship** – Waiting results of Feb. Food Challenge, March craft party attended by 7 ladies, working on some ideas for fellowship.

**Youth & Education** – Discussed decorating for VBS, May 12<sup>th</sup> is the last day for Sunday School for both kids and adults, Kids will sing on Palm Sunday and table favors will be made for the OWLS.

**Worship** – Christmas candles will be cleaned this summer, prayer cards in pews need to be checked, discussed how to make singing stronger during communion especially when the choir receives communion. Council suggested communion hymns be on the screen.

**Finance** – Year to date expenses \$11,000 greater than income, income down compared to last year, 2024 Property expenses higher due to increases in Service contracts & building maintenance.

**Endowment** – no meeting.

**New Business** – Received word of the death of Eunice Peterson and 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran to receive a portion of the remaining trust. Council determined that Rick Cook be authorized to sign documents in regard to receiving these funds.



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The open dates coming up:

**April 7, 14, 21, 28**

Please call the office if you would like to schedule one of the above Sundays

**ALTAR GUILD**

*April – Marilynne Kloster, JoAnne Klopping*

*May – Mary Ann Smith, Lynn Holland*

*June – Karen May, Lani Swinford, Julia Cain*

**CIRCLE MEETINGS**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

**Rebekah 9:30am**

**Lydia 3:00pm**

**PRAYER SHAWL GROUP**

**10:00am - Tuesdays, April 9 & 23**

**&**

**QUILTERS**

**1:00pm – Thursday, April 11 & 25**



**April Anniversaries**

John & Judy Shofner 4/16  
Tom & Jo Kloster 4/22  
David & Emalie Ohlson 4/27  
Dave & Gayle Little 4/29

***Our Sympathy to the families of:***

*Mary Hull – passed on 3/2/24*  
*Bud Wedding – passed on 3/3/24*  
*Bob Abernathy – passed on 3/16/24*  
*(father of Jennifer Mills)*  
*Roger Geheber – passed on 3/30/24*  
*& Ruby Geheber – passed on 3/31/24*  
*The Gehebers are parents of Tina Nutter*  
*stepmom to Gage & Dash Nutter*  
*A celebration of life will be 4/6/24*  
*from 1-4pm in Streator, IL.*  
*Eva Stier – passed away recently*  
*She is the grandmother of Jeff Jaques.*

**Next Old Wheels Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 6, 2024**  
**8:00am**  
**Scruggs' Pond**

**Pastor's Bible Study**

11:00am Wednesday Bible Study  
6:00pm Thursday Bible Study

**CONFIRMATION**

6:00pm Wednesday  
No Confirmation on April 3  
Class will meet April 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 24<sup>th</sup>  
The 24<sup>th</sup> will be the last class this spring.



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Larry Nelson 4/1  
Linda Bacon 4/2  
Shelley Corban 4/4  
Jo Kloster 4/4  
Tom Kloster Jr. 4/8  
Karen May 4/12  
Emalie Ohlson 4/13  
Mason Scruggs 4/13  
Lisa Widmark 4/15  
Marilyn Borri 4/17  
Sue Eggers 4/17  
Judy Mugerdichian 4/17  
Eileen Prusator 4/18  
Pete May 4/19  
Bernice Schuetz 4/20  
Kit Bonucci 4/21  
Madison Kloster 4/21  
Hannah Muehlschlegel 4/28  
Michael DiPietro 4/29  
Sara Scruggs 4/29

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Elsie Faith Burke**  
**Born Easter Sunday, March 31st**  
**At 10:29am – 8 lbs. 8 oz.**  
**Parents: Josh & Nicole Burke**  
**Sister: Darcy**  
**Grandparents: Ty & Lynn Holland**



***Soup Supper Thank You***

*"A BIG Thank You" to everyone who helped with the Lenten Soup Suppers. It was such a wonderful time of food and fellowship before attending the worship services.*

*There was a great variety of delicious soups and desserts each Wednesday night. I also appreciated the great help in the kitchen.*

*Many nights we served 50 people.*

*Thank You to April & Rob Buchanan, Rick Cook, Ian Eklof, Boo Graham, Lynn Holland, Tricia Hopkins, Jennifer Jaques, Jo Kloster, Jo Anne Kloeping, Glenda Knotek, Gay Kyle, Karen May, Barb Mills, June Ohlson, Cindy & Gary Pierson, Bernice Schuetz, Sara Scruggs, Sue & Jim Scruggs, Joanne Sheldon, Judy Shofner, MaryAnn & Duane Smith, Lani Swinford, Mary Lee Twidell, Diane VanDrew, and Jerry Zibert.*

**River Bend Mobile Food Pantry**

**The next Mobile Food Pantry  
is scheduled for**

**Thursday, April 25, 2024 -- 9:00am**

**at the B.C. Fairgrounds again.**

**Mark your calendar.**

**Bring any wagons you can!**

**KNEELING FOR COMMUNION**

We are going to kneel for communion on the first Sunday of the month & do the "walk-up" on the third Sunday. It does take longer for everyone to receive communion when we kneel.

Please keep that in mind & do your best to keep things moving on those Sundays.

**NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY**

This year happens to be 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran's 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our founding.

It's been 6 years since our last directory.

We have made arrangements with Universal Church Directories for a new book and pictures are scheduled to be taken on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. *(The company we used last time no longer does church directories)*

You will be able to sign up for a time at your convenience soon. You may also submit a photo or arrange to have one taken at another church using the same company.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact the office. Be watching for more information.

**Special Needs Prom**

**"A Night to Remember"**

**April 20, 2024 at 5:30pm**

**BC Metro Center**

**Endowment Committee**

**Next meeting is Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00am**

**Food Drive Challenges Results**

1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran – 955 lbs

New Hope – 433 lbs.

Peoples Church – 355 lbs.

Presbyterian – 148 lbs.

**Total pounds collected = 1,891  
providing 1576 meals to households  
served by the Pantry.**

**First Lutheran’s poundage  
provided 796 meals.**

**Thank you all for stepping up to the  
challenge! You are fantastic!**

**Continued prayers for: Cancer patients: Loren Cook, Karen May, Gary Schall, Nancy**

**O’Connor** mother of Pam & Jerry Zibert’s son-in-law, Chad Errio), **Eric Davis** (brother-in law to Rob Buchanan), **Michael Frandsen** (Lani Swinford’s brother), **Steve Heward** (son-in-law of Hank & Evelyn Sale), **Derek Stier** (cousin of Jeff Jaques).

**Others: Sandi Smith & her daughter Melissa, Larry Allen, Barb Fiste, Char Morger, Jenna Dunn, Chris Everson** (son of Jackie Pilcher),

NOTE: If you would please add to your prayers, Swaleh, a student of EdPowerment, who was injured in a serious accident. He has lost his parents and is facing a very long recovery. There is a Gofundme page at [messages@gofundme.com](mailto:messages@gofundme.com) if you would like to contribute to his medical expenses.

**SCUBA VBS PROGRAM**

**July 14-18, 2024**

**5:00 - 7:30pm**

*We will be seeking volunteers for this summer’s VBS week. Help is needed in the kitchen, crew leaders for groups of children, outside games & activities, craft room assistants. Talk to June Ohlson if you would be able to help in some way that week.*

**Via de Cristo Closing Ceremony  
April 14, 2024  
5:00pm**

**Via de Cristo Ultrea  
Saturday, April 20, 2024  
5:00pm**

**Both events are here at  
First Lutheran**

**2024 Lenten Denial Offerings**

Food Pantry \$723

Buddy Bags \$393

Princeton Ministerial Assn. \$539

Thank you all for your gifts.

Thank you for your support of our Easter Breakfast. We received \$626.50 in donations for breakfast. The Old Wheels Committee

**AS I AGE, I REALIZE:**

The biggest lie I tell myself is, “I don’t need to write that down, I’ll remember it.”

When the kids text me “plz” short for please, I text back “no” which is shorter than “yes”.

As a child I thought nap time was punishment. Now, it’s like a mini vacation.

The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing. --Socrates

**RED GERANIUM FLOWER ORDER FORM  
FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Flowers may be ordered through the church at **\$18.00** per plant.

\_\_\_\_\_ # Red Geranium Plants

My plant/s is a memorial to: \_\_\_\_\_

My plant/s is in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Order form & payment may be placed in the offering or turned into the office by **May 12<sup>th</sup>**. Make checks out to "First Lutheran Church".

Plants may be picked up after worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

