

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - December 2019

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*“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11, ESV)*

Christmas Day is right around the corner! But before we get there, we’re going to spend a few weeks preparing our hearts and minds for Christmas during the season of **Advent**. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word “adventus,” which means “coming” or “arrival.” Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. This year, it begins on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. So the four Advent Sundays will be December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

But in addition to the four Sundays of Advent, we will also have three special Wednesday night services on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. These Wednesdays will begin with a soup and sandwich supper served from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Please join us in the fellowship hall for some good food and Christian fellowship. If you are willing to help in the kitchen on one of these nights, or bring some soup or a dessert, please sign up on one of the lists at the back of the church. There is a separate list for each of the Wednesday dinners.

After dinner, we will have Advent worship at 7:00 p.m. This year, we’re going to do something special. My son, Matt Shields, is the new pastor at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Flanagan, Illinois, about 70 miles southeast of Princeton. Pastor Matt and I are going to do a three-part sermon series together. On the first and third Wednesdays, we will be in our own churches. But on the second Wednesday, we will switch places. I will be in Flanagan and Pastor Matt will be here in Princeton. I hope you enjoy the pulpit swap as well as the theme which we have chosen.

God’s blessings to you during this Advent season. I hope to see you all on the four Sunday mornings and also on the three Wednesday evenings!

Pastor Bill

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## 2019 Advent Wednesday Sermon Series

Pastor Bill Shields	Pastor Matt Shields
First Lutheran Church, Princeton, Illinois	St. John’s Lutheran Church, Flanagan, Illinois

### **“Unwrapping Some Christmas Traditions”**

#### **Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Princeton:	“The Christmas Tree”	Pastor Bill Shields
Flanagan:	“The Creche (Nativity Scene)”	Pastor Matt Shields

#### **Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

Princeton:	“The Creche (Nativity Scene)”	Pastor Matt Shields
Flanagan:	“The Christmas Tree”	Pastor Bill Shields

#### **Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Princeton:	“Saint Nicholas”	Pastor Bill Shields
Flanagan:	“Saint Nicholas”	Pastor Matt Shields

**Council Summary:**

Council meeting November 12<sup>th</sup>. October minutes and financial reports were reviewed & approved.

**Pastor** – his usual monthly schedule plus OWLS Fall Fellowship, spent 7 days in South Africa, Prayer Breakfast, & Young Life Banquet. Coming up: LCMC Workshop postponed, Annual Auction & Potluck Nov. 10, to speak at Rotary Nov. 19, Mobile Food Pantry Nov. 21, Thanksgiving Eve Service Nov. 27, Christmas Carol Sing Along Dec. 1 & on Dec. 11, Pr. Matt Shields will preach here & Pastor Bill goes to Flanagan.

**Administrator** – Average October attendance 100, Sunday School 26.

**Property** – Cronkwhite Home Solutions will clean & install gutter covers on parsonage, trim in Nursery is done, watch bat situation in parsonage attic, storage shed in & snow blower ready, Kewanee boiler passed inspection, an outside receptacle and security light will be installed on the northeast corner of the building. Sunday School chairs added to Memorial list.

**Service & Mission** – Mobile Food Pantry November 21 at Fairgrounds, sign-up to purchase gifts for Gateway clients, Mission Support Budget for 2020 is set and approved by council.

**Outreach & Fellowship** – LCMC Workshop rescheduled for February 21-23, 2020. Christmas Caroling is Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm with a Chili Dump to follow, met with Worship to discuss Fellowship coffee & budget for it.

**Youth & Education** – Kids Christmas Program Dec. 15 during worship, practice during Sunday School Dec. 1 & 8, small tree purchased from The Closet as a prop & attendance has been good 18-20 kids each week & 25-30 adults.

**Worship** – Christmas Carol Sing Along sign-ups out, decorating Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Eve pie & Advent Soup Supper sign-ups out, Sun. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> hymn sing, need only 1 greeter on each side, discussed coffee fellowship.

**Finance** – \$11,170 behind in budget income, benevolence is ahead \$2000, Stewardship mailed & due Dec. 1. Auction income \$7323.24.

**Endowment** – Jim Scruggs on signature card for Midland account, Building fund paid \$5000 plus \$305.57 interest on loan, Kari Richardson resigned position, will be filled by nominating committee, 10% of Country Investors Annuity will be withdrawn & \$8000 will be taken out of American Funds. Council approved the expenditures of the committee: \$1375 for scholarships, \$6000 missions, & \$9500 outreach. Council decided that Bulletin boards, dry erase boards & Library carts will also be added to Memorial list. Council approved members of Old Wheels purchasing 10 light-weight folding tables for Old Wheels. Members will make their donations to the Old Wheels designated fund.

Deadline for the bulletin is Thursday morning 10am.  
Deadline for the Newsletter is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
Listen to or watch Pastor’s sermons on our website.

**NOTICE TO ALL COMMITTEES:  
Annual reports are due to the office  
by January 12, 2020 Please!**

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

**OFFICE CLOSED  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOV. 28 & 29**

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## LCMC Workshop Rescheduled

We will try again on **February 21-23, 2020**. Stay tuned for more details to follow next month.

## AUCTION

### RESULTS!

**\$7323.24** was the final tally!

Thank you all, who donated items, purchased items, brought food for the Potluck and in any way helped to make this year's auction a great success!  
Special thanks to Dave & Bernice Schuetz for organizing this event & David Ohlson, emcee.

## Stewardship Materials

2020 Time & Talent Sheets & Pledge materials were mailed November 12<sup>th</sup>. Please prayerfully consider your commitments for next year.

We are in need of additional people to participate in many of the Sunday Morning duties. *(Official membership is not required.)* Any questions can be directed to the office.

Please return these commitments December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## ADVENT SERVICES & SOUP SUPPERS

Wednesdays, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>

5:30pm – Supper

7:00pm – Worship

Consider sharing your favorite soup.

## Christmas Carol

### Sing-Along

Sunday, Dec. 1

2:00pm

*s Quintet &  
beck*

*will be providing their musical talents and allowing us to sing along with them.*

*Invite your neighbors & friends.*

*If you can help usher or serve refreshments after, please contact the office.*



## New Member Class

Pastor Bill will be holding another new member class in January. If you are interested in learning more about what it means to be a Lutheran or wish to transfer your membership from another Lutheran church, please see Pastor Bill.

## NOTIFICATION / CORRECTION:

### The December 10<sup>th</sup> LCW Women's Christmas Luncheon has been canceled

due to the closing of the Plantation Grille restaurant. This event was included on the December calendar. This will be rescheduled as a "New Beginnings" Luncheon in January 2020.

On Sunday, Dec. 1, after worship, ladies, please grab a cup of coffee and join us in the Fellowship Hall for a very brief discussion of ideas/suggestions for our women's ministry at 1<sup>ST</sup> for 2020. This will not interfere with the Carol Sing plans.



## OWLS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>  
11:00am Worship & lunch to follow  
Call 815-875-1685 if you need transportation



**Bible Journaling Classes**  
**For December**  
**Sunday, Dec. 8 – 4:30pm**  
**Second meeting time to be announced!**



**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:30am Worship**  
Our children will present a short play about the symbols of Christmas & sing. Come enjoy & support them.

**RIVER BEND MOBILE FOOD PANTRY  
REPORT 2019**

A big shout out and thank you to all of those who made the latest mobile food pantry a resounding success! Experience has taught me that the closer we get to the holidays the greater the need and this was no exception as we gave out 212 tickets with each ticket representing one household; the total numbers in the households was 556. Given the higher number of people than in the past the potential for incidents was much greater but the experienced volunteers of First Lutheran and the community ran things as smoothly as possible and all went well. There was a great deal of gratitude from those being served. Once again thank you all for taking time to volunteer and make this event a way to show Christ's love in a tangible way.

Respectfully,  
R. Glenn Allen

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING  
& CHILI DUMP  
Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>  
4:00pm**

Bring a bit of chili to add to the pot. We'll share it when we get back from serenading our nursing home residents.



**CANDLELIGHT  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**4:00pm & 7:00pm**



**Note this change in times!**

**There will be a special Children's sermon at the 4pm service along with the formal Candlelight worship.**

**The Choir sings at 7pm.**

**There will be NO 11pm worship.**



**GATEWAY GIFTS**

This year we will again ask people to purchase gifts for Gateway clients who have no family. Please look for details in the back soon!

**No Sunday School Classes for Kids or Adults  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.  
Classes resume January 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**CUBS TRIP??**

Do you want us to continue arranging tickets & bus to a CUBS game? We will soon be able to reserve tickets for next year. If there is not enough interest, we may skip this year. Let the office know if you want to go. Thus far, there has been little response. . .

**LCW News**



It's been a cold and snowy autumn. Prayers for the farmers at this busy time.

In November, we had CWU "World Community Day", and provided 12 dozen sandwiches for the Blood Mobile. 56 School Kits, 48 Personal Care Kits, and 61 Quilts were packed & delivered to Lutheran World Relief plus \$100.00 to cover the cost of shipping. Karen & Pete May delivered 15 boxes to Bloomington & Jo Kloster for coordinated the effort.

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. is the OWLS Christmas Luncheon hosted by Rebekah and Lydia Circles. Worship upstairs at 11am followed by a lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

The **December 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Luncheon is canceled** due to the closing of Plantation Grille.

There will be no Circle meetings in December.

Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> we will install LCW officers during the worship service and Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> is our 2020 planning meeting. All LCW Officers (board members, chairmen, and program coordinators) and all other LCW members are welcome to attend. Bring your ideas!

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> noon is the Annual Church Women United Meeting, hosted by the First United Methodist Church. All ladies in the community are welcome to attend. They will review the past year and make plans for 2020.

Barb Mills has the only December Birthday!

**We Hope Everyone Has A Wonderful Christmas!**