

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Psalm 122:1, ESV)

Like David writes in the verse above, I am anxiously waiting for the day when we can all come back into the church building and worship our Lord as we have in the past. I am just as tired of this COVID-19 as all of you are. I wish I had the power to end this virus right now. And every night I pray to the one who has that power and I ask him to remove this plague from us. But so far I have only gotten the answer that Paul got when he asked God to heal him of his physical ailment. God said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9) In other words, when we are knocked down by something as small as a microscopic virus, we are reminded of how weak we really are. And we are reminded of how dependent upon God we really are. And if we see this crisis through the eyes of faith, then we will draw closer to God because he is our only certain hope for salvation.

But in the meantime, what do we do about worship? Right now, the Church Council has decided that our best course of action is to provide three different worship opportunities which limit our physical contact with other worshippers. One of those worship opportunities is our outdoor worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. I lead worship while standing on a hayrack at the southeast corner of the main parking lot. Some people pull up in their cars and tune their radios to 89.7 FM, a frequency that is not in use in our area. We broadcast our service using a small FM transmitter which shoots the signal for about a quarter of a mile. It's really pretty cool! Other people sit on lawn chairs or blankets in the grass next to the parking lot. We have a couple of radios set up to broadcast the service in that area. We usually have about 60 people in attendance at this service.

One of the great things about the outdoor worship service is that several people who would not be able to worship indoors have been able to worship every week in the parking lot. It has been such a joy to see Merle Polson at worship every Sunday morning! Merle is battling cancer, and it's getting more serious, but it can't keep him away from worship. And he is able to visit with many of his friends and family members before and after church, even if they have to talk through the glass of his car window. Several others are in the same situation as Merle. Once we go back inside, they will not be able to worship with us in person. So I am glad that we have been blessed with their presence this summer.

The second worship opportunity is on Saturday morning. At 9:30 a.m., I do a full worship service in the sanctuary, with Glenn Allen recording it on the camera and Tracy Brenneman or Rick Cook running the sound board. Music is played by either Lynne Swanson or Kathy Allen, and my wife Lisa helps me get ready for the children's sermon. We decided that if we could keep the attendance under the state limit of 50, we would continue to do that. So far, attendance has been in the range of 15-20, so we still have lots of room left if you want to join us on Saturday.

And the third worship opportunity is online. As I mentioned above, we tape the Saturday morning service. Glenn then uploads the video to Youtube and Mary Ann Smith links it to our church website at flcprinceton.org so that people can watch at home. The video is usually uploaded by Saturday evening and is available for you to watch at your convenience. Between the full service video and the "sermon only" video, we have about 100-120 views every week. That probably works out to about 200 people watching online every week!

So that is what we are doing for worship right now. But what are we going to do when the weather changes and the warm Sunday mornings become cold and blustery? Well, we are planning to bring our Sunday morning worship back into the sanctuary. And I can hardly wait for that day! At the September Church Council meeting, we will be making a decision about exactly when we will come inside. We plan to be outside through the whole month of September and at least part of October. So we'll keep you up to date about when that transition will happen. When we do start worshipping inside, we will observe safety protocols, such as masks and hand sanitizer and social distancing.

As we plan for our return to indoor worship, we would like to get your input on how that should happen. So we would like to take a little survey. The survey will help us to plan for the number of worshipers that we will have on Sunday morning. We are going to try to keep all services under 50 people, so that we can follow the social distancing guidelines. We will continue to tape our service on Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. and post it online that evening. So those options will not change. But if we have more than 50 on Sunday, then we might have to get creative.

Maybe we will do two Sunday morning services, to keep the numbers down at any one service. That is one of the things that we'll be talking about at the Council meeting. And we need your input to make those decisions. You can help us out by answering one simple question.

When we go back to indoor worship on Sunday mornings, when are you most likely to attend?

- 1. I will attend on Sunday morning.**
- 2. I will attend on Saturday morning.**
- 3. I will watch the service on the internet.**

Please call the church office (815-875-1685) during the week and let June know what your worship preference is. She will record the number of people in your family and whether you will worship on Sunday, Saturday, or online. If no one is there to answer your call, please leave your name and your worship preference on June's answering machine.

Your responses will help us to make our decisions about indoor worship this fall. And your love and support and understanding will help us to get through the next few months until we come to the day when we can worship indoors without masks and hand sanitizer. I love you guys and I look forward to seeing your healthy, smiling, maskless faces every Sunday in the not-too-distant future! Amen and Amen!

Yours In Christ,
Pastor Shields

Office hours: 9-12 & 1-4 Mon.-Thurs.

Website: www.flcprinceton.org

Check us out on Facebook.

Phone: 815-875-1685

Email: office.flcprinceton@gmail.com

**The Church Office will be closed
Labor Day Monday, September 7th.**

*If you have any special announcements for Pastor to make during his taping, please get them to the office **by Thursday**. Mailing does not guarantee we will get them before the Saturday taping. Call and leave a message, email, or drop off a note.*



First Family News:

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9/1 - Mickey Frazier | 9/19 Lorraine Schmitt |
| 9/3 – Abby Jaques | 9/16 Beth Dieng |
| 9/5 – David Ohlson | 9/20 – Vada DiPietro |
| 9/7 – Sue Scruggs | 9/23 – Denny Miller |
| 9/8 – Carolyn Mahon | 9/23 – Ethan Thompson |
| 9/8 – Cheri Swanson | 9/24 – Glenn Allen |
| 9/10 – Gayle Little | 9/24 – Brian Busche |
| 9/13 – Khloee Jaques | 9/25 – Pastor Shields |
| 9/14 – Lydia Kyle | 9/25 – Jaxson Eggers |
| 9/15 – Roger Munson | 9/30 – Hank Sale |
| 9/16 – Caroline Ramirez | |
| 9/17 – Dale Anderson | |

Hospitalized recently:

- Jo Kloster
- Sue Scruggs
- John Purvis

Continued prayers for:

John Purvis, Roger Munson, Merle Polson, Tommy Larson, Cynthia Strader, Dennie Hult (brother to Mike), Susan Lauritzen, for an end to the violence in our major cities and recovery & restoration from Hurricane Laura.

PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Bill will be resuming his Wednesday Bible Study Class on September 9th. He wants to pick up where he left off last spring. We promise there will be social distancing and we will not meet in the Library. So, come at 11am on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 9.

September Anniversaries

- 9/23 – Bob & Susan Pierson
- 9/26 – Mike & Sue Eggers

THANK YOU!

Words cannot describe my gratitude for the love I felt from this congregation during my recent knee replacement/recovery. Every time I received a note/card/phone call/ prayer, I felt a hug from God. I am doing well and I know it is because of all your prayers (and Jim’s good care). Many thanks, a church family is such a treasure. – Sue Scruggs

THANK YOU!

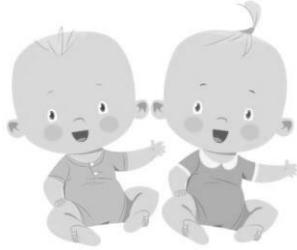
*Thank you for all your prayers, kind thoughts and cards before and after my recent surgery.
– Jo Kloster*

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the members of our First Lutheran family for the many lovely cards, calls and good wishes at the time of our 60th Anniversary in July! You helped make it a special day and we appreciate that so much!
God bless you all,
Dick & Barb Mills

Lutheran World Relief

We will NOT collect any more items for the Personal Care Kits and the School Kits. They will not be sent out this year and any items already collected will be stored until next year.



Congratulations!

Harlan Paul Ohlson - boy

7/10/20

7 lbs. 5 oz. 20 ½ in.

Parents: David & Emalie Ohlson

Grandparents: Gail & June Ohlson

**Great Grandparents: Larry & Linda Nelson
& Emma Nelson**

Morrissey Tayler Mills – girl

7/27/20

5 lbs. 7 oz. 18 in.

Parents: David Mills & Sarah Lukancic

Grandparents: Eric & Jennifer Mills

Great Grandparents: Dick & Barb Mills

More Babies. . . .

Benjamin Cam Shields - boy

8/12/20

7 lbs. 13 oz.

Parents: Isaac & Sarah Shields

**Grandparents: Pastor Bill & Lisa
Shields**

Dean Everett Lauf - boy

8/22/20

10 lbs. 10 oz. 21 ¼ in.

Parents: Jonathon & Heather Lauf

**Grandparents: Ty & Lynn Holland
& Neil & Shelly Corbin**

**Congratulations to all new parents &
grandparents!**

Best Wishes



Jessica Chase & Ethan Kloster

Married Saturday, 8/22/20

*At Ironwood on the Vermillion
LaSalle, IL*

Parents: Tom & Marilynne Kloster

*Grandparents: Tom & Jo Kloster &
Lynne Swanson*

In Sympathy. . .

Tom Kloster Sr.'s brother Arne Kloster passed
away on 7/4/20 in Springfield, Ohio

Tim Hayes passed away suddenly on 8/2/20
here in Princeton.

Doris Giltner passed away on Monday,
8/24/20 at Liberty Village in Princeton. Her
service was held Saturday 8/29 at Grant
Johnson Funeral Home in Princeton with Pastor
Shields officiating. Burial will be in Elm Lawn
Cemetery.

BUDDY BAGS

We have been asked to fill Buddy Bags in October again this year. That will be every Wednesday in October at 5:00pm at Hampshire Colony Church. Please plan to help; it usually takes less than 1 hour.



Quilt & Prayer Shawl Dedication

Saturday / Sunday September 26 & 27
Members will need to place them on the communion rail before Saturday, September 26th



ALTAR FLOWERS

Once we return to worship in the building, we will resume Altar Flower requests each week. Current open dates are:

October 4, 11, 18, 25 & November 1, 8, 15 & 29
 December 6, 13, 20 & 27

Remember, the flowers will need to be in the sanctuary before 9:30am on Saturdays.

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



RIVER BEND MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

River Bend has been unable to reschedule our cancelled spring distribution. The Thursday, November 19th date will go on as originally planned. Please save that date to help. Talk to Glenn Allen if you have questions.

Thank You!

Kids, please continue sending in your pictures! Pastor loves to show them to the camera on Saturdays.



NEWS!

Update: The October 5th, LCMC 2020 Gathering, will still be held at this point in Minnesota. Since the state is limiting gatherings to 250 or under (it may be less now). You may still register to attend in person or you may attend virtually from the LCMC website. There won't be as broad a representation of our congregations. For this year alone, they are recommending that the current budget be extended until next year and the two members up for re-election on the Board of Trustees have their terms extended 1 year.

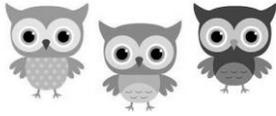


ANNUAL GATHERING

A new Service Coordinator, Pastor Mike Bradley has been found to replace the retiring Mark VanderTuig. Mike began in this position on August 1st. Mike & his wife, Debi live in Gilbert, Arizona.

If you wish to send a note to Mark VanderTuig, please send to: LCMC
 Attn: Farewell
 7000 N. Sheldon Rd.
 Canton, MI 48187

Send before September 15th.



**THERE WILL BE NO OWLS EVENTS
FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR.**

YOUNG LIFE

Young Life's fiscal year ends in September. To help with their financial deficit this year, they are doing their second annual Mum sale. The plants are 9" with an 18" flower available in red, yellow, purple, orange, pink & white and sell for \$15.00. See or call Sue Scruggs, she has order forms. Order due Sept. 2nd & pick up the plants on Friday, Sept. 11 at Evangelical Covenant Church.

Bouquets of Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for the tables for residents at Greenfield, Hungry World Farm of Tiskilwa is preparing bouquets to be delivered to Greenfield on September 8th. A \$5.00 donation will provide flowers for 1 table in the main dining room. A \$135 donation will put a bouquet on every table. Contact: angela.mcclane@icloud.com 619-944-7335 or karla@hungryworldfarm.com 319-594-2646 by September 7th to participate. Donations can be mailed to Hungry World Farm, P.O. Box 386, Tiskilwa 61368.

Kids Korner

I hope you and your children enjoy our weekly mailings. The current activity pages are based on the New Testament text for each Sunday. We encourage you to read the story together and discuss the meaning of each lesson as a family. *A YouTube video has been selected to accompany each lesson and is available on the Children's Resources page of our website.* I hope you find this helpful as Sunday school has moved into your home.

Our Children's Library continues to provide quality literature for your children. We are asking you to check out the books and return them promptly before checking out more. The books are housed in the lower level double classroom and are available during office hours.





LCW News

Well, another month of this quarantine under our belts. Many September activities are cancelled. The September 24th Blood Mobile will still take place, but **NO** outside workers at this time.

We will **not** be assembling School & Personal Care Kits this year. We just didn't collect enough this year for the distribution and were concerned about contamination of the donated items. All of the donated items will be stored for next year. We will have Quilts to donate to the Lutheran World Relief service project. So... We will **not** have our Pizza on the Patio on Wednesday, September 30th.

The Quilt and Prayer Shawl dedication will happen as originally planned for September 26/27th. Quilts & shawls will be placed only on the communion rail before Saturday, Sept. 26th.

NO Owls event on October 1st.

Until further notice, any scheduled events will be evaluated and decisions made if they will be held. Right now, only the Lydia Circle is meeting. Rebekah and Naomi Circles are not meeting until the Corona Virus eases up. The Prayer Shawl and Quilters are not meeting as a group but the ladies are quilting and making shawls at home.

We have 2 Birthdays in September: Sue Scruggs and Carolyn Mahon, Happy Birthday!

Hopefully we will be able to get together soon, we will have a lot to catching up to do.

Stay Safe at Home Everyone.

♥ We Miss Seeing Our Church Family ♥