

The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

June and July 2018

The Parish News of Faith Lutheran Church of Westchester, Illinois – connecting you with His Church.

Faith Office Phone:

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<http://Faith-Lutheran-Church.com>

Sunday Morning Divine Worship

9:00 a.m.

Sunday Adult Bible Study

(paused until September)

Reverend David L. Prentice Jr., Pastor - pastor.prentice@comcast.net

Deacon(s): Tim Graves

A Note from Pastor Prentice...

We are coming into the summer season, so enjoy it; please take a moment to relax and have some fun in God's wonderful creation. Yes, troubles abound, but we also have some good things as well. But please remember, when troubles do arise, one of the best places to be is in His Church, listening to His Word, being refreshed by His Body and Blood. And that brings me to one issue I was pondering, "Do I back down to Holy Communion every other week?" I did it last year, but now, I myself as a pastor and one that also sits at His feet to be fed, "I need it weekly". I need Word and Sacrament. Yet, I am still thinking of altering some of the service settings for this summer, perhaps Morning Prayer (Matins, etc.) and then a brief order of Holy Communion to finish up. That is not illegal.

So what is your Pastor up to this summer? Yes, I am trying to enjoy God's goodness too. But I am also pondering some good ideas to help the community we serve. So here goes:

01) I am inviting Cook County Commissioner Boykin to come out and discuss issues in our community. Stay tuned for more (probably September).

02) I am inviting the K9 Veterans Ministry (LCMS dog ministry to some) to be with us for a time where we share some goodies and chat with veterans and active military in the community. Stay tuned for more (probably September as well).

I will also conclude with some of my thoughts on this issue, "can we share our space with another non LCMS congregation?"

So, I am enjoying the summer, yet I hope you can see some of the good

things Faith is trying to do. Remember, God never rests (praise be for that).

Blessings - Pastor Prentice

Should we allow a non-LCMS congregation to use our Church?

The issue and question, "can we use your Church to hold worship services" never seems to occur for a large Church. Oh, they get their fair share of, "can you help", or "we can use" questions that do occur; but little Churches have plenty of room and time open for use of space. Don't they? True answer, they probably do; but does that still mean a Church should loan their building space, or lease their space, or sell off portions of their space to another congregation of a different spiritual walk so they can hold worship services.

What is the answer to that question? As a congregation that holds the papers to the building, there is monies to be had from selling off, leasing out portions of space and time. It can help the bottom line for a struggling congregation. Sure, issues of insurance and property wellness, or how to get along within time and space issues would occur; those issues can be fixed over time. So the business answer, "Go ahead" if it makes business sense.

The true issue I want to ponder; is it right and should a congregation do this from a theological stance?

- What is a Church building? - Looking over the LSB Agenda for dedicating a Church, we read exactly what the Pastor would say, "Let the doors be opened for the preaching of the saving Word of God in accordance with the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church for the administration of the Holy Sacraments according to the institution of Christ..." After that, altar, paraments, font, crosses, etc. are blessed and dedicated to be used according to the Confessions and right Biblical teachings. The Church and its contents are not just bricks and mortar, but sacred space for worship. When the Church is closed for use, the same Agenda, "This Church building is closed as a place for divine services in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Why would we say these things unless we believe something special is ongoing in the building? Answer, we do believe something special is happening, the Divine Liturgy, the Sacraments, etc., all rightly administered by the Pastor(s) given charge of the flock that resides within the Church walls.

- So what do Pastor(s) do in that building? - Looking over the Rite of Ordination, a man will confess belief in the Holy Scriptures, the Creeds, and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church (our Book of Concord). A promise is also made to look after those put under his pastoral care. At the time of a Pastor(s) installation to a congregation, he is told to shepherd and teach, to love, to care for that flock; and the congregation is told to love, honor, and be obedient to the shepherd placed in their midst. So what? A Pastor will exhort and ask his congregation to follow God's Laws and to believe rightly in the Gospel and all that God has given, but when they walk outside the Churches walls, they can do what they want (sadly). But when they come into God's house, His Church, the Pastor will make sure teaching is correct, the administration of the Sacraments is right, the liturgy speaks God's love to us, and we do hope for a good sermon. A Pastor will also have to give some "tough love" to a sinner as well when required. Yet a Pastor cannot be everywhere in a members life, but he can make sure when they come into Church, nothing will cause doubt or concern for that member. We know if we allow a non-Lutheran congregation to use our space, some will ask, "they are like us, no?" The answer must come back, "No"! We are LCMS for a reason.
- What does Scripture say? - Matthew in his Gospel certainly warns us of false prophets and teachings, 7:15, 15:19, 24:11. The Apostle Paul certainly warns of false teachers, 1 Tim. 1:3 and 6:3 (to name a few). Peter and John also speak about false prophets as well. I could go on and on (and some would want that).
- How false? - Of course, we could debate how false; and some religions are "more false" than others, if you use the lens of being LCMS as a starting point. Of course, the discussion must be this, "do they confess a Trinity of the Godhead?" This is our catholic stance and we cannot waiver. Period.
- Using the Church's History - Reading over the history of Faith in Westchester, Faith was started as a mission church to the community. There were plenty of other churches around, but the founders decided a LCMS mission plant was required, to meet the needs of Westchester and surrounding areas a place of worship in our design. They took a great chance and Faith was born, with some blood, sweat, tears, and prayers too.

Now does that mean we do nothing with the property and space during the week? Absolutely not, and I am trying to find good opportunities for community help, help for our people, etc. I will do that as long as I am the pastor of this congregation.

Perhaps there will be a Part 2 to all this after some discussion? Stay tuned.

Pastor Prentice

Sick, ill, in need of pastoral care (an emergency) ...

Call Pat Prentice (630) 567-4082; she is the acting Church secretary and knows where I am at all times. Of course, my cell phone is (708) 650-4082. If you call the Church phone (708) 343-1030, I get an email alert to my Comcast account. The new Web Site will also forward me an email.

At the moment, no "office hours", but for the most part, always available when in need; I am either working at home, or in the Church office at some unusual times. So the motto is, "call Pat".

Faith Prayer Ministry...

I ask prayers for our shut-ins, and after a prayer, "perhaps" when all is good, nothing to do, give them a call. If you need an Address Book, they are on the Mission Table (or request via email).

Christa Scardina (and Mike)
Ruth Brockmann

Larry and Kuni Dvorak
Mr. Kaapke

Reports from the Faith Boards

Education at Faith (Director Deacon Tim Graves) ...

01) We are in summer recess.

02) Upcoming studies are being planned, here is a sneak peak.

- * 1 Corinthians - our walk with faith, some good tools are within.
- * Revelation of John - always a good study, we have dug up a great DVD series.
- * A study on prayer.
- * More ideas being bounced around.

03) Concord and Coffee will begin in October.

Finance at Faith (Director is open / David Prentice III is helping) ...

There is nothing new to report, but if you have questions or concerns, just ask. The bills are getting paid, the monies are being counted. Thanks to all.

Evangelism at Faith (Director is open) ...

- Invitation is perhaps one of the best outreach tools.
- Remember to see and tell others of the Web Site, the staff always keeps it up to date.
- Thanks to all that helped make Armed Services Sunday a winner.

Properties at Faith (Director is Patrick Prentice) ...

- We will need the air conditioning system tuned up. Eric (a friend of Pastor) has stepped up to help us out with this (he is in the Air Conditioning business). So far though, all is working fine.
- Working on the elevator - ATT is coming out to install a dedicated line for the lift.
- (Outstanding Issue) No news on the fire alarm system that is to be installed in the parish (office) house.
- (Outstanding Issue) Carillon Chimes - well, the system has taken a turn for the worst, the receiver may have gone bad. Working on a solution at a good cost.
- There has been some digging and landscape work at the Church. The lawn is being mowed and trimmed when needed.
- Next work? - The temperature sensor that emails out a note on Low Church temperature is not working. We also need to put stone in the trenches outside, but that will wait till fall; just be careful. We are doing a little more digging. The cross, it will be resurrected properly this year. Parking lot may need to be sealed and some patch work.

Stewardship at Faith (Director is open) ...

- Nothing at the moment.

Parish Fellowship at Faith (Director is open) ...

- Nothing at the moment.

Around the Parish - Dates and Other Happenings

Monthly Birthdays ... and Anniversaries ... (if we forgot, email us)

June

Ed and Candy Smith	- June 5, 1971
Steve and Kim Vaughn	- June 17, 1995
Pastor and Pat Prentice	- June 19, 1982
Tim and Jean Graves	- June 28, 1969

June

Lauren Boiko – June 3 rd	Lawrence Dvorak – June 3 rd
Bridget Patalaki – June 6 th	Eunice Becker – June 12 th
Pastor David Prentice Jr. – June 28 th	Janice Boiko – June 29 th

July

Jean Graves – July 22 nd	Anita Shlecht - July 19
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Calendar of events, worship, places where Pastor Prentice is ...

06/03 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9 am
(Divine Service 4 - Holy Communion celebrated)

06/10 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 9 am
(Divine Service 4 - Holy Communion celebrated)

06/17 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am
(Divine Service 4 - Holy Communion celebrated)

06/24 – The Nativity of St. John the Baptist 9 am
(Divine Service 4 - Holy Communion celebrated)

07/01 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am
(Divine Service 4 - Holy Communion celebrated)

07/08 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am
(Divine Service 4 - Holy Communion celebrated)

07/15 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am
(Divine Service 4 - Holy Communion celebrated)

07/22 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am
(Divine Service 4 - Holy Communion celebrated)

07/29 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am
(Divine Service 4 - Holy Communion celebrated)