

The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

December 2018

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

Faith Office Phone:

1(708) 343-1030 (voicemail directs to pastor's email)



Sunday Morning Divine Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Reverend David L. Prentice Jr., Pastor - pastor.prentice@comcast.net
Deacon(s): Tim Graves

A Note from Pastor Prentice...

We begin the new Church year with the season of Advent. We closed off the year with Christ the King Sunday. I preached a sermon on John 18:33-37, where we encountered Pontius Pilate attempting his best not to put Jesus to death. Pilate so wanted Jesus to confess that He was King, but Jesus simply told Pilate His kingdom was not of this world. Jesus IS King, but not in a way that Pilate thought; however, I closed with Pilate's words nailed upon the tree, "Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." (John 19:19) Jesus Is Lord, and not of the Jews alone, but all people that put their faith in Him. Sadly, the Jews of today fail to see Him as Lord.

I also said some bold words from last Newsletter that I will say again: "There is no better witness to God than the LCMS, through a right understanding of confessional teachings and practice."

So where am I going? As the Church year unfolds, I truly want to make an effort to highlight who this King is (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit); to make sure the witness about our King is centered in solid Lutheran theology as championed by our LCMS. Sadly, some so-called Lutherans fall short, and we must make sure we know the differences that may not appear large, but in theological terms, are as wide as the Grand Canyon. We must also know the differences from other faith families, and those that do not confess Christ as Lord.

How? We must get back to some roots. We must make sure we understand solid Word and Sacrament as taught by the Church. We take the Bible, God's Word seriously and must get back to some Bible study on the Word (hint, 1st Corinthians

begins in Bible Study). We must also learn to appreciate the Sacraments from a Lutheran and "catholic" perspective. Baptism saves, even infants. The Eucharist is not just a fellowship meal, but the Body and Blood of Christ given to His faithful to sustain faith, to forgive sins. We come to His table as a faithful congregation believing in this, or we should not come (until we understand better). Thus, Lent will be a time when we will get back to some teaching on the Catechism (which was historic in the early Church).

I started to bring up prayer in more earnest and we must continue to follow up on this. The Prayers for Healing, Hope, and Consolation will continue. The new monthly prayer bulletins will begin (see special section later).

Finally, I must conclude with some words on the liturgy, the settings of the service. We have wonderful settings, based on historic and catholic teachings. We do not throw out the baby with the bath water, we retain some good (very catholic) parts, and we remove bad theology. The service to some may be boring, but to those being fed by Word and Sacrament, and understand what is going on, will appreciate the liturgy we follow. Some may call me a "bit high Church". But I say, we are in the presence of the King and we pause to allow Him to feed us, His life giving Body and Blood, His life giving Words; and when the King is present, we "put on the best we have". That said, we can still up the game in song and other aspects of the liturgy. I plan on getting a trial of the LSB service builder to enhance the worship experience.

We may be small, but we will continue to be a light to the community with solid preaching, teaching, and historic liturgy. And maybe some will stop by and "get it", what we (I pray) enjoy every week we meet.

Blessings - Pastor Prentice

(Special Note) When I use the word catholic, it does not mean Roman Catholic, the religion practiced by many today. It means universal, diverse, encompassing many things. The "catholic" nature of Christianity goes back many years, and we retain much of the good parts. We toss out the bad parts (some of you remember the Bible class on Reformation history); after all, the Reformation did not occur because of a few disgruntled people. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was at stake, being hidden by the bad practices of the Pope and Roman Catholic teaching. We give thanks for all the Reformers who preserved much to bring us to where we are today.

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

Call Pat Prentice (630) 567-4082; she 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.

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 / Phone Book, please request via email or ask on Sunday.

Larry and Kuni Dvorak
Ruth Brockmann

Mr. Kaapke

If you have a prayer request, please phone or email, and tell pastor, "please let the church pray for ...", or ask for private prayers.

(Starting in December 2018) - What came out of our Prayer Study was a need for some tools and tips to bring a prayer life back into our daily life. We have created a monthly Prayer Bulletin that will highlight some changing prayers and Scripture, that you can use every day when able. At the back will be reasons for prayer, and as this grows, perhaps at the end of 2019, we can publish a small Faith Handbook of Prayer.

Reports from the Faith Boards

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

01) On December 2, we begin a study of 1 Corinthians - our walk with faith, some good tools are within. Please note that we study until 11 am (OK, if you want to stay a few minutes and ask questions, no hurry).

02) Upcoming - Revelation of John - always a good study, we have dug up a great DVD on the subject.

03) Concord and Coffee is paused until we can gather up the class, watch for the beginning date. This time together has been well received.

Finance at Faith (Director Position is open) ...

Please watch the bulletin for an upcoming Voter's Meeting where we will discuss the budget for 2019, most likely in December.

Evangelism at Faith (Director Position is open) ...

- What great new service and teaching opportunities...so "go tell someone".

Sunday Morning Seekers, Bible Study, Prayers for Hope, Healing, and Consolation

- The Christmas Schedule is available.
- 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.
- Please assist as able when we have our Outreach events. We can certainly use helpers.
- If someone new comes in and seems to fumble a bit, offer some help.

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

- The Berghaus Organ is all tuned up for the Holiday Season of music.
- The Elevator (lift) passed inspection.
- All lights have been replaced, except the one Exit (we are looking for the bulb).
- (Outstanding Issue) The timers are acting up and we are looking at them, they turn on and off certain lights.
- (Outstanding Issue) The cross is still not the way we want it, but I think next year is the year when we place it exactly how it will stay for years to come. I do believe Mike will be a big help on this project.
- (Outstanding Issue) Yes, we saw one mouse run by in the basement, and we have setup traps all over, but we have not caught any at this time. He must have run outside.
- (Outstanding Issue) Still no news on the fire alarm system that is to be installed in the parish (office) house. We are making calls, and we have put monies down.
- (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.

Stewardship at Faith (Director Position is open) ...

Any talk of stewardship seems to cause chills up and down the spine, and to the wallet. Sometimes though we must bring these issues up, so:

- 01) Thank you all for the generous giving to keep Faith operating.
- 02) Please remember, giving comes from a feeling that we are all here blessed by the Lord, and we try our best to remember that.
- 03) As your Pastor, my giving is best served by refraining from being paid (just works out best for the Church) for the month of December. The Lord is good!

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

- Come to the Christmas Eve Service about 1/2 hour early and join in on some goodies and punch. We will then sing some good songs, and hear of the wonders of God in His Son Jesus Christ.
- Lunch will be served after every Advent midweek service at noon. Come join us for worship then food and fellowship.

Around the Parish - Dates and Other Happenings

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

There are none at this time.

Calendar of events, worship, places where Pastor Prentice is ...

12/02 – Advent 1	9 am
12/02 - Bible Study on 1st Corinthians	10:30 am
12/05 - Advent midweek / Morning Prayer (Lunch follows)	noon
12/05 - Advent midweek / Evening Prayer	7 pm
12/09 – Advent 2	9 am
12/09 - Prayers, Hope, Healing and Consolation (A time to heal and reflect)	10:05 am
12/09 - Bible Study on 1st Corinthians	10:30 am
12/09 - Seeker Worship / Prayers and Preaching	11:30 am
12/12 - Advent midweek / Morning Prayer (Lunch follows)	noon
12/12 - Advent midweek / Evening Prayer	7 pm
12/16 – Advent 3	9 am
12/16 - Bible Study on 1st Corinthians	10:30 am
12/19 - Advent midweek / Morning Prayer (Lunch follows)	noon
12/19 - Advent midweek / Evening Prayer	7 pm
12/23 – Advent 4	9 am
12/23 - Bible Study on 1st Corinthians	10:30 am
12/24 - Lessons and Carols / Christmas Eve	7 pm
12/25 - Christmas Day with Eucharist	9 am
12/30 – 1st Sunday after Christmas	9 am
12/30 - No class this weekend	10:30 am