

The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

January 2019

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)



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

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...

Two wonderful Christmas Services were not the entire climax of the total account. Sure, in a secular world, trees and decorations are coming down; some gifts are even being sent back to "get the right one". So to many, Christmas is over, yet to the Church, it continues on; in reality, there is just too much good news for one day. Christmas actually lasts twelve days and moves to January 5 (hint, the decorations will stay put at Church until then). During this time, the early moments in Christ's life are depicted. We celebrate St. John the Apostle and Evangelist on the 27th. We remember the Holy Innocents and Martyrs on the 28th (when evil King Herod tried to kill Jesus). On January 1st, Jesus is circumcised and named. Finally, on January 6 we move on and celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord; this is when Jesus, true God is now revealed not just to Israel, but to the entire world. The Magi, Gentiles (non-Jews) from the east came to worship God, and with that moment, Jesus and the Message of the Good News of Salvation came to all mankind. God is no longer in a temple or a mountain, etc., God is flesh and bones. Yes, a powerful mystery that unfolds again for us. As we mature in the faith, I pray this becomes even more joyful. So keep saying "Blessed Christmas" because it is not over yet.

Part two:

It is time to reflect on the year at Faith, where we are going and where we came. I give you some bullet points for thought:

- Seeker's Service - we tried a more informal setting once a month at 11:30 a.m., but no takers; so this option will be abandoned. Options are being planned.
- Midweek Advent in the evening - no one came (but we had attendees during the noon service), so this will help formulate the upcoming Lent and Easter Season schedule.
- Prayer Service once a month - appears to be a hit. As we mature in our faith, prayer is needed, even more so. Please remember, we pray together as a people of faith.
- Divine Liturgy - we continue to explore our LSB and vary around good settings. We are not a church of blended or contemporary worship, but historic worship that is centered on Word and Sacrament. Some may look for a "feel good" time in church, but when you understand God is present in His Word, and in the Eucharist, "is that not the greatest feel good a Christian could have?"
- Bible Study - seems to be adding a few new souls. This is an important aspect of maturing in the faith. Please note, the Bible Studies can be joined at anytime, so "dive in".
- Are we getting the information out? - Well, the Web Site and FB page are always up to date. We have a monthly newsletter (emailed and printed), and the bulletin is always chock full of "what is coming up". Hint - the bulletin is also on the web site, as is the newsletter. Not sure what more we can do?
- With above said - We will attempt to print Pastor / Deacon meeting notes that are not of a private nature, and also some Council notes. In 2019, we will try hard to meet more and provide feedback.

These are some thoughts, and more to come in the next letter. A final thought on why no permanent office hours? Well, this is a sign of the times; a pastor should not be alone in an office meeting people. So just to remind, as I (or my Deacon goes out, or stays in house too meet anyone), there will be two people always present. Yes, in my case, Pat will tag along, in the office or on visit. Of course, a hospital call is special situation, and people are all around.

Please remember though, at least this pastor is not gifted with any special powers and if in need, please email or call. Also, if in need, at His Church in Word and Sacrament, God's is always present in a special way.

Blessings - Pastor Prentice

PS) I am finishing up my Master's at Wheaton College, starting in January. If all goes well, graduation in May (final exam and last class in June).

Are you curious on the classes?

- Teaching Christian Education
- The Epistles of Peter and Jude
- Christian Ethics
- A comprehensive exam (really a big paper).

We practice Closed Communion at Faith - A reminder to please read over the communion statement printed in the worship folder most every week (or on the web site); ecclesial oversight is reminding us of this fact; it is also proper pastoral practice.

We are not here to deny communion to those in need, but we are to be of like mind as St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians. So, if you are a member, and examine yourself, repent (and are absolved), believe in the power of the Eucharist, both as a church fellowship meal and His True Body and Blood. Well, then...continue on as always. Nothing has changed. If you do not believe this...let's chat.

If you are a visitor, or non-member wanting to commune; please talk to pastor as our statement asks.

Finally, if you commune at this Altar and believe what we do, you are fine to commune at fellow LCMS churches; other church bodies you should refrain from attending their communion practice, as it is not in line with ours.

Perhaps hard, but once again, ask a question of pastor.

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

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

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 guide called "Faith's Handbook of Prayer".

Reports from the Faith Boards

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

01) On December 2, we began 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). This Bible Study with a powerful message has been well received.

02) Upcoming - Revelation of John - always a good study, we have dug up a great DVD on the subject. This study may not begin until the fall semester; we must complete our 1st Corinthians Study (which may lead to 2nd Corinthians).

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

04) A series of sermons on the Triune God are being planned. Not sure when they will be used yet.

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

The statements for giving should be coming out in January, they are being compiled. Please remember, the finance of the church (not personal giving) is open to all, just ask.

Evangelism at Faith (Director Position 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.
- If someone new comes in and seems to fumble a bit, offer some help.
- We can always use ushers and greeters.

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

There is nothing new to report at this time. A special "Properties Issues" document is available for the asking.

Yes, some issues and problems are taking some extra time to repair. We are not hiding them; just want to save some Newsletter space.

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; especially during the Advent and Christmas season.

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.

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

Thanks for all that helped with the lunches during the Advent midweek services.

Around the Parish - Dates and Other Happenings

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

Patrick Prentice – January 27th

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

01/06 - The Epiphany of Our Lord 9 am
01/06 - Bible Study on 1st Corinthians 10:30 am

01/09 - Circuit Winkel 9 am
01/10 - Pastor at Wheaton College Class All Day
01/11 - Pastor at Wheaton College Class All Day
01/12 - Pastor at Wheaton College Class All Day

01/13 - The Baptism of Our Lord 9 am
01/13 - Prayers, Hope, Healing and Consolation 10:05 am
(A time to heal and reflect)
01/13 - Bible Study on 1st Corinthians 10:30 am

01/20 - 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 9 am
01/20 - Bible Study on 1st Corinthians 10:30 am

01/27 - 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 9 am
01/27 - Bible Study on 1st Corinthians 10:30 am

Note) Occasionally on a Wednesday, I preach and preside at various retirement homes through FHP ministries.