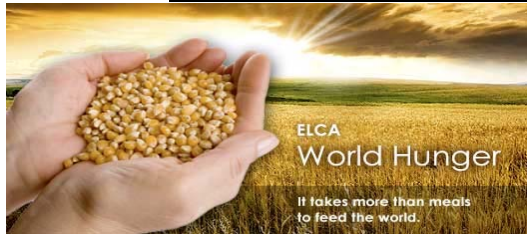


First Lutheran Church

Newsletter for Members & Friends

February, 2012



World Hunger: Opportunities for Ministry

So, how's that diet coming along that you began in January? Mine actually is going slowly but surely. This last year has been a train wreck for me physically so it's back to basics at the Olson house. It may be odd to start out an article about World Hunger by talking about our diets. But let us face the facts: most of us have been blessed and we often have too much too often.

There are several opportunities to address the food issues in our life by thinking about the food issues for the millions of people in our world who have not been as blessed as we are. Sunday, February 5th is the **Super Bowl of Caring offering**. This year's offering will go to the organization that is sponsoring the **30 Hour Famine** that Amanda Schanze and Rosemary Sibley are doing with the Jr. League to be held on February 25th. They will be showing a brief hunger video on February 5th to bring this awareness to worship.

The ELCA's World Hunger Appeal continues to make a difference all over the world. This year has been the Malaria Campaign to buy sleeping nets for families to ward off mosquitoes that carry the disease that kills 800,000 people a year. They also are involved in providing education for prevention and medicines for treatment. You can go to www.elca.org/malaria to participate in this campaign of our church.

Hunger is also an issue in the United States. The ELCA is involved in domestic programs, often through churches and social service agencies. About 1 out of 10 people in our country do not receive a proper diet and/or are at risk of hunger. The web site: www.elca.org/domestichunger will link you to our church's work in this field.

Consider a special gift this month for hunger ministries of our church or other organizations. You will feel better spiritually, and you may even feel better physically by sharing with others.

Peace, Pastor Greg

Council Highlights: 1-10-12

The council met with 12 members present, Pastor Olson and Rosemary Sibley. Devotions were given by Dave Meyer. The minutes and treasurer's report were approved.

Pastor's Report: We will be doing the evaluation of the results during the retreat in February or March. The Nominating Committee reported to Pastor that there are still three positions open for Council. The CRE is March 10th and members of the council are encouraged to attend. The

community endowment funds for the community youth ministries has been deposited in a separate account. A Wi-Fi signal has been established for the church. Pastor reviewed an article about Pastor Sabbaticals that was in the Lutheran magazine. Although Pastor is now doing his own “in house” sabbatical by participating in an on-going educational course, there may be a time when a Pastor who has been with FLC for a period of time may want to go this route.

President: Dave thanked the Council for their work as he wraps up his term as president. He encouraged the Council to keep the increase of membership on the front burner.

Youth and Family Ministry: A number of youth and families are signed up for the Synod ski trip. The 30 Hour Famine is scheduled for this month. Rosemary is involved in the arrangements for the Peder Eide adult weekend in October. She thanked the congregation for their support in the oranges fundraiser. They made around \$500 for the National Youth Gathering trip.

Property: The workday was moved to Feb. 25th 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. with pizza to follow. They discussed marking a couple areas where the concrete outside has risen.

Worship and Music: February 12th was set as the Service of Healing for this year as it falls on a Sunday where the texts for the day address Jesus the Healer. February 19th the band will play.

Christian Education: During March Sunday School children and their families will be required to serve as ushers. On the fourth Sunday in February we will recognize some of our volunteers.

Evangelism and Social Ministry: The Mitten Tree was a great success. The nursery list is being updated. Busy bags were updated.

Stewardship and Finance: The budget was reviewed along with stewardship pledges. It

was agreed to recommend the current budget to the Annual Meeting.

Old Business: The Endowment Committee will be approached for help in paying for the lot at 203 Locust Street. The Annual Meeting was discussed.

New Business: No new business. The meeting ended in prayer.

December Financial Report

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building</u>
Beginning	\$ (4,632.21) . . .	6,694.58
Income	29,297.06	1,307.50
Expenses	17,222.83	1,542.25
Balance	\$ 7,442.02	6,459.83

Next Council & Committee Meetings

Tuesday, February 14th
Committees - 7:00 p.m. Council - 8:00 p.m.

Welcome to New Council Members and Orientation

We welcome our new council members: Sharon Anderson, Lelia Gibson, Ellen Pannier and Ian Wankler and returning member, Mary Roland.

The Church Council will be installed on February 5th during worship.

There will be an orientation for new council members on February 5th after worship. We will give them the Council note books, church Constitution and explain the workings of the Council. A special thanks to these new Council members for their willingness to serve First Lutheran.

Pizza Sales - Pick-up Feb. 4th

FLY will be making pizzas on Saturday, February 4th and they will be available at noon for pickup. If you have not ordered and do want some pizzas let Rosemary know - we always make a few extra just in case. Thank you to everyone for your support in ordering pizzas. We appreciate all you do for the youth in the congregation.

Pancake Breakfast – Feb. 19th

Our version of “Fat Tuesday” is the FLAG pancake breakfast. This will be served after worship on Sunday, February 19th. Pancakes, rolls, fruit and drinks make this a special pre-Lent event.

Lenten Program

Ash Wednesday begins another season of Lenten dinners, fellowship and worship on Wednesday evenings. This year’s theme focuses us on a devotional book called *The Cup of Life*. Each week the pastors will speak about different kinds of cups and their Biblical implications. Pastor Olson will be here for Ash Wednesday, February 22nd and the first mid-week service on February 29th. There will be a rotation of Pastors from Morrison, Sterling and Rock Falls. On each Wednesday evening we are serving dinners at 6:00 p.m. and worship at 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 22nd

The beginning of the Lenten season is Ash Wednesday. It is a night of sober reflection on our humanity and its redemption through Jesus Christ who entered into our humanity. Ashes will be shared with those who choose and communion will be offered.

The 6:00 p.m. dinner will be BBQs served by WELCA. This will be a time for fellowship and a good meal.

Groups Serve Lent Dinners

Our main course is made by our cooks: Rita Olson, Marilyn Melton and Rosemary Sibley and others. We need each group to have 4 - 5 people to come at 5:30 p.m. to help set up and provide enough desserts for 60 people.

The schedule of workers and main courses are as follows:

February 22 – WELCA serves BBQ’s
February 29 – FLY & Jr. League serves
Crusty Beef Noodle Bake

March 7 – FLY & Jr. League, serves
Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and
Soup

March 14 – FLAG serves Chicken Casserole

March 21 – Youth, Education &
Stewardship, serves Tacos and Taco
Salad

March 28 – Property & Evangelism, serves
Scalloped Potatoes & Ham

April 5 - Seder Dinner at 5:45 p.m.

A free will offering will be received to cover costs. Money that is left over will be donated to World Hunger.

Confirmation Classes in February

Confirmation class will be held on February 1st with Mentors. February 8th and 15th classes will be just the Confirmands. There are no classes during the Lenten season but students are encouraged to complete five sermon notes during this period.

Please be aware of the need for acolytes on Sundays and the Wednesday evening Lent services. Please refer to the acolyte schedule.

Lydia-Miriam Circle Meeting

The circle meeting will be held on Monday, February 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Charlene Hanson and she will be the Bible leader for the meeting.

All Church Cleaning/Work Day

On Saturday, February 25th there will be a work day from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Lunch will be served. Everyone is welcome to help the Property Committee do some extra things in the building. We will

be cleaning out some of the closets, scrubbing some wood work and doors (bring a bucket and sponge) and dusting off some hard to get to areas. This quick two hour event with lunch can accomplish a lot if we have you there to help.

Brunch - February 26th

FLY will be serving brunch after worship on February 26th. Please check the bulletin for the menu.

FLY and Jr. League Combine Forces to Help Stamp Out Hunger

FLY will join *Souper Bowl of Caring* on Sunday, February 5th to say "I don't think its okay for 11,000 kids to die from hunger related causes each day". With many churches participating around the United States the youth are trying to make a difference. If you would like to help with a donation FLY members will be at the back of the sanctuary after worship carrying soup pots. You can simply put your donations in the pot. Each church picks where it would like to have the donations go and FLY will be giving the money to combine with Jr. League's famine lock-in donations. The money will then be sent to World Vision.

Jr. League will be having a famine lock-in on February 25th from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. They will not eat; instead they will go on a scavenger hunt requesting cans goods that will be given to our local Food Pantry. They will learn through simulated experiences what hunger is all about.

Synod Ski Trip

I am always amazed at the uniqueness of First Lutheran: For example the annual ski trip, we had 40 people, some skied, some helped, and some just enjoyed being with their son/daughter for the day. We had food and drinks, we had laughter,

and we had families. Families came together with dad's helping put on gear, dad's taking other kids under their wings, and dad's/ mom's driving and providing support. Thank you everyone, especially all the parents that really made this a CHURCH FAMILY DAY.

FLY

Prayer Breakfast – Feb. 14, 21, 28
(No Prayer Breakfast on Feb. 7th)
4 – Make Pizza
5 – Collect for Souper Bowl of Caring
26 – Serve Brunch
29 – Serve Lenten Dinner
Pizza & Prayer – February 1st & 15th

Jr. League

25 - Famine Lock-in: 7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.
(Parents will receive letters in the mail)
29 - Serve Lenten Dinner

February Birthday Celebrations

We wish to send a "Birthday Greeting" to all of our members celebrating this month. A special greeting is extended to our members who are 80 or over.

Lory Wirth – 7th

Jean Moews – 25th

Please refer to your church directory for the entire birthday list of our members.

Assisting in February

Ushers: Rick & Anna Woolums, Randy Skelton, Jeff Olsen, Larry VanDyke

Greeters: Randy & Denise Cady, Steve & Nora Kelly

Altar Committee: Rita Olson, Diane Jones, Becky Emery

Assisting Minister: 19 – Aaron Johnson

Communion Bread: 5 – Luanne Urban

Cantor: Aaron Johnson

Readers

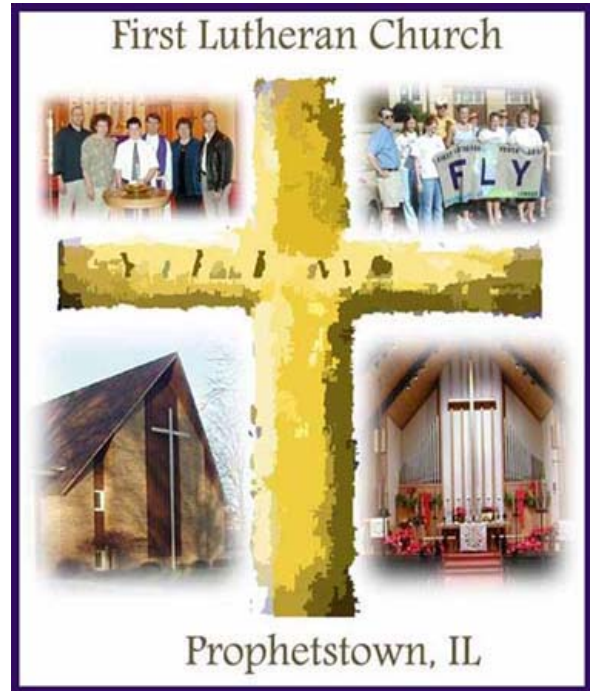
- 5 – Dave Meyer
- 12 – Marilyn Skromme
- 19 – Hannah Strike
- 22 – 7 p.m. JoAnne Cocking
- 26 – Rick Woolums
- 29 – 7 p.m. Stephanie Emery

Acolytes

- 5 – Jensyn McKinney
- 12 – Corrin Sonnenberg
- 19 – Madi Purvis
- 22 – 7 p.m. Brett Emery
- 26 – Emily Hanover
- 29 – 7 p.m. Jack Heflin

Nursery

- 4 – Lory Wirth
- 11 – Heather Rangel
- 18 – Darla Rangel
- 25 – Rhonda Bohms



Pastor & Staff

Pastor Greg Olson . . Home: 815-537-2363
Cell: 815-535-3181
Youth & Family Ministry–Rosemary Sibley
Home: 815-537-5326

Sunday Worship . . . 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School . . . 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Parish Secretary's Hours

Monday-Friday . . . 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

How to Reach Us

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