



Issue 1

Volume 34



First Lutheran Church, Plano, IL

The Anchor



Pastor's Letter

Christ the same, yesterday, today, and tomorrow. If there is any comfort that we can claim in a changing world this is the comfort we hold on to. Jesus' love does not change. Jesus' death and resurrection, forgiveness and new life are assured. Jesus continues to send the spirit to bring the gifts of the spirit into our lives. It is the same yesterday, today and always.

We are in a new year and if you have not already you should be receiving an epiphany message and task from me. A new year is a great way to start and think about a new beginning. I have heard people say that they would like to get back to "normal". Just the fact that we call it a new year of 2021 tells us that we can never go back, we can only go forward. Every year, not just this year, we are reminded in beginning a new year that things are constantly changing. We live the next day in the strength and in the light that Jesus has come into this world and that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The question is not one of the past. Like, how do I get things back to normal. The question is one of the future, and the partnership and walk that you do together with God. The questions for a new year are always the same. What gifts has God given to me in this new year? What is God calling me to do this year? How may I follow Jesus more closely so that I might benefit from the abundant life that only comes from Jesus? But of course, we are human. And as a human being we get sidetracked and feel defeated by so many other questions, which seem important, but fail to measure up to the quality of life that comes with walking daily with Jesus.

A new year is a great time for a new start. Begin the year by asking the most important questions. Asking the right questions is the first step in life abundant.

Pastor Jonathan Black



God's Blessings!

We pray for Elise Christine Porter, child of Alexander and Christine Porter, grandchild of Jim and Kathy Porter. Elise was baptized at First on Sunday, December 20th. May God bless and keep you Elise. Pictured left to right: Eamon Porter on Alex Porter's shoulders, Christine Porter, Brittney Slipher, Elise Christine Porter, Brian Mullen and Pastor Black.



Food Pantry

As we all settle in after the Holiday hustle and bustle please remember the Kendall County Food Pantry. People are struggling. Some examples of what is needed: pancake mix, syrup, sugar, jam / jelly, dish soap, diapers - size 6, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, band aids, stomach relief, pain reliever (Tylenol/ibuprofen/aspirin).



- 4 Erik Englehart
- 5 Joe Anderson
- 10 Sharon Brue
- 14 Ryan Phillips
- 15 Scott Englehart
- 19 Karen DeBolt & Alex Porter
- 21 Tim Kern
- 25 Jeff Hoehn
- 28 Margaret Briggs
- 29 Donielle Anderson
- 30 Mike Grommes



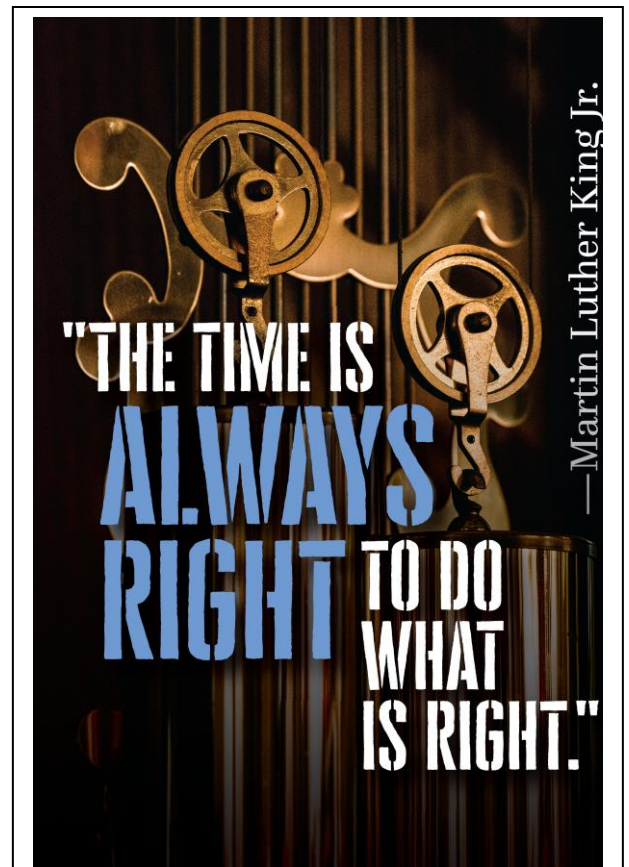
Congratulations to Aden Baker graduating on December 30th from the United States Marine Corps at San Diego. Aden became a Marine on December 17th after 13 weeks of basic and completing what is referred to as the Crucible. 54 hour event with little sleep and few meals. Sleep was broken down to 2 hours at a time, outside in sleeping bag in about 10 degree temps. He pulled Fire Watch at one point, so had about an hour and a half to sleep. Proud parents are Keith and Jerri Lynn Baker. Aden moves to Camp Pendleton for SOI (Soldier of Infantry) training.

God of Justice and Truth, we ask your blessing on our nation. Thank you for the freedoms we enjoy, especially those we take for granted.

Thank you for the diversity of our people and enlarge our capacity for tolerance and mutual respect.

Make us mindful of the blessings of our rich and abundant land.

May your gracious Spirit inspire us to work together to meet the challenges of our times.





With a new beginning and fresh start, full of inspiration and positive thoughts, let's begin this year with an optimistic thought.

Gone are the days of regret and guilt, those rooms full of darkness. It's time to move with courage, full of confidence and hope. Let's begin this year with an optimistic thought.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/new-year-2017>



Take Home Communion

Please remember Communion can be picked up Saturday mornings between 10 and 11AM on the following dates; January 2nd & 16th, unless otherwise announced.



Help is needed so much everywhere these days. If you are one who is not struggling to make ends meet, why not consider helping others. The ELCA has a program called Good Gifts. They make it very easy to help others. Check out the link. <https://goodgifts.elca.org/help-in-us>

OFFERING REPORT

Year to Date Offerings as of 12/20/20

General Fund Income received: \$159,015.42

Budget Amount Needed: \$195,681.39

Year to Date Expense: \$172,888.48

Short: (13,873.06)

Checking Account

Year to Date Income: \$184,806.28 (11,000 from investment income)

Balance as of 12/22//20: \$15,164.26

... and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.



Matthew 2:9, NRSV

A picture for the kids to color!
Epiphany is January 6th, the day we remember when the Wise Men first saw Jesus.



First Lutheran Church

200 N. Center St.

Plano, IL 60545

(639)552-8263

www.firstlutheranchurchplano.com

Facebook:

FirstLutheranChurchOfPlanoIL

Return Service Requested

WALKING TOGETHER...

LOVING CHRIST

LOVING ALL
FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Pastor

Reverend Jonathan Black
firstplanopastor@gmail.com

Church Office

Jerri Lynn Baker
Firstoffice200@gmail.com
Working from home. In office
by chance on Wednesdays.
Please call first.

Financial Secretary

Ruth Ann Hoehn
Secretaryflc02@gmail.com

Worship services:

Currently no indoor worship.

Radio Ministries

Every Sunday at 10:00AM – a
partial broadcast of the weekend
Worship service airs on WSPY
107.1 FM

Recorded weekly services can also
currently be found on our website.

www.firstlutheranchurchplano.com