



Our Church

(309) 734-2106 office@flcmonmouth.org

Volume CL Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2018

February 2, 1868 – February 2, 2018 = 150 Years!

Back to Our Future: A Never-Ending Story!

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:16-21

Anniversaries are bridges between our past and our future. As we celebrate the anniversary of our birth, a favorite birth-day tradition is to make a wish about our future and blow out candles on a cake. When Patti and I celebrate wedding anniversaries we often take time to remember the early years...how we met, our first date, our engagement and wedding...so that we don't forget the spark that brought us together and become complacent about the future. Businesses will often make a big deal of their anniversary years, e.g. "Serving our Community for 50 Years", to remind us of their stability and reliability going forward.

When anniversaries are only celebrations of past history, glorifying the "good old days", they can become discouraging and dangerous. You can't safely drive a car looking through your rear-view mirror because you will miss what's coming! When businesses do this, they eventually fail. Consider the Eastman Kodak company, founded in 1888. Their business was rooted and grounded in producing cameras that used film. On their 100th Anniversary in 1988 they hit their global peak employment of 145,300 people. As they approach their 130th Anniversary later this year their global employment has plummeted to 6,100. Why? Because they failed to see the coming wave of digital cameras. They could have adapted but they stayed rooted and grounded in their past. There was no bridge to the future.

When our year-long celebration began on January 21st, Bishop Clements affirmed our faithfulness during our first 150 years but ended by challenging us to renew our commitment to Christ and the future of this congregation by embracing Jesus' call to leave the past behind and forge a new future. In a world that is changing dramatically, he called us to live out the witness of Jesus that desperately needs the church to be a prophetic voice for love and justice in a broken world.

All of this should help enlighten you about why our 150th Anniversary Committee has selected *Back to Our Future: A Never-Ending Story!* as the theme for our 150th Anniversary year and Ephesians 3:16-21 as its scriptural foundation. Ephesians 3 connects the saints in the past with the generations to come, with a reminder to those of us in the present to stay rooted and grounded in the foundation of Christ's love "so that" we can accomplish even greater things in the future through the power of God's Spirit at work in and through us. When we do that, instead of having a Kodak moment, our story of mission and ministry in Monmouth will never end!

With that in mind, Pam Best, the chair of our Anniversary Committee and the third of four generations rooted and grounded in the story of First Lutheran, as well as the author of both parts of our theme, was inspired to write the following reflections connecting the past to the future of our never-ending story:

First Lutheran's story began in the year 1868 in the little Midwestern town of Monmouth, Illinois. A small group of people gathered to worship and share their Lutheran faith with one another. And from that beginning 150 years ago, we gather together still in Monmouth - different location and building, but with the same desire to grow in our faith, and in our knowledge, and in our love for God and one another. We mark 150 years of worship, service, and dedication to our Lord this year by pausing to look back at all the people, events, and triumphs of our glorious history. At the same time, we celebrate the ongoing ministry and vibrant future as a congregation we have to look forward to. Through times of sorrow and of joy, we have had the constant presence of our Lord to guide us and comfort us, and we look forward to many, many more years of worship, service, fellowship, and love. Ours is truly a "Never-Ending Story".

In the months ahead there will be more celebrations planned, so watch for the *Back to Our Future* page in the newsletter and get involved. The Anniversary Planning Team would love to have you lend a planning hand too when an event strikes your fancy. The year will culminate with a roots of faith homecoming celebration on Reformation Sunday, October 28th. On that day we will be inviting everyone whose faith was planted or nurtured here to come home to offer thanks to God for the impact this congregation has had on their lives. It should be a great closing celebration for our anniversary year. It will then be up to us to ensure that our story of life impacting ministry never ends!

It is my prayer that this *Back to Our Future* anniversary journey concludes with issuing a call to First Lutheran's next full-time pastor who, inspired by the signs of your growing commitment to being rooted and grounded in Jesus' love, will be excited to journey with you into an unknown future believing that there is a power at work in your midst through which God will be able to accomplish abundantly far more than all you have been asking or imagining!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jeff Linman

Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,

I want to thank all of you who donated to the Out of the Darkness fundraising – many of you have done so every year I have approached the congregation for help. I have been so very impressed by the automatic willingness so many of you have had to give to help address the issue of suicide in our community.

I would like to ask you to do one more thing. Here is a reminder listing of the Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry website – lutheransuicideprevention.org. Please write it down somewhere so that if you need to offer it as a place for a friend or relative to start you will have it on hand.

Thank you again on behalf of those who will be aided by the materials, training, etc. that you have helped make possible.

- Kurt Volz

LENTEN PLANS

2018 Lenten Devotionals

FLC is putting together another devotional for Lent. Submissions were due January 31st with a goal of distributing the devotionals on either February 11th or Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Watch for details about obtaining hard copies or digital copies of the devotional in the weekly email update or on Sundays.

Ash Wednesday Worship, February 14

Begin your Lenten journey by attending one of our Ash Wednesday worship services at Noon or 7pm in the Sanctuary, February 14th. This year's journey happens to begin on Valentine's Day...a fitting time to remember the depth of Jesus' love.

Lenten Wednesday Church Family Meal Nights

A new 5-week Wednesday evening Lenten gathering will be held this year to draw us closer to each other and to Jesus. Entitled *Cross+Walk with Jesus*, the gatherings will include a soup and sandwich supper and table conversation from 6 to 6:45pm followed by a time for Lenten devotions and singing from 6:45pm to 7:15pm. The gatherings will be held in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday from February 21st through March 21st. To get involved by attending, bringing a pot of soup and/or a loaf of sandwiches, and to help serve and/or clean-up, look for the sign-up sheets after worship on Sunday. Our Lenten journey will begin with an Ash Wednesday worship experience in the chapel at noon and 7pm on February 14th and wrap up with our 2nd Annual Holy Week Experiential Journey to the Cross gathering, Maundy Thursday, March 29th at 7pm. All ages are welcome. Plan now to participate.

Want to Become a Member/Disciple at FLC?

Are you new or returning to First Lutheran and excited about what's happening? If so, please consider joining the congregation by becoming a member/disciple!

Pastor Jeff will be scheduling a New Member / Disciple orientation soon.

To express an interest and offer your thoughts on the best time to meet, speak with Pastor Jeff in person or contact him by phone or text

(407-435-8525), or email (jeff@flcmonmouth.org).

Dear Members,

As you know, we kicked off our 150th anniversary year, with a special visit from Bishop Clements on January 21st, followed by a delicious meal. However, that was just the beginning! We are planning lots of special events this year, the next one on Sunday, February 18th.

First Lutheran Church in Monmouth was officially founded on February 2, 1868, which makes February our

"Heritage Month". **We plan to celebrate with a special gathering between services (9:15 to 10:15) on February 18th where we can share some sweet treats, reflect on our rich history, and joyfully anticipate what is yet to come - so we invite you all to bring along your favorite treat/snack or just come for the fellowship!** Many of us are of Swedish background, as were the people who helped start it all so many years ago, but we are blessed to have a great diversity of backgrounds among us. So please, first service people stay a little later and second service folks, come a little earlier on the 18th for some great food, fellowship, and a sharing of our mutual faith.

We encourage you to bring any special church pictures or memorabilia from your time here that we can display for all to enjoy. We will soon have the bulletin board ready for contributions as well as some other spots for sharing our memories. Hope to see you all there!

Pam Best, 150th Anniversary Committee Chair

Date: February 18, 2018

Time: 9:15 am - 10:15 am Place: Fellowship Hall Purpose: Social Hour with Treats



Pastor Linman, Pastor Marolla, and Bishop Clements on Jan 21st



The special service was well-attended!

Back to Our Future: A Never-Ending Story!

Dear Fellow Members of FLC,

Our 150th Anniversary year is in full swing now and we would like to keep it going with help from all of you. Our big homecoming anniversary event is planned for Reformation Sunday, October 28th. In the meantime we are planning a number of additional events. This anniversary page will be the place to look for news about special events. It will also be a place for you to share special memories (funny, meaningful, hopeful, surprising, reflective, you name it), as well as hope and dreams for the future of First Lutheran. Our theme this year is, as stated at the top of the page, "Back to Our Future: A Never-Ending Story!" so this is a place where memories of times gone by and hopes for times to come will be shared. Pictures are also welcomed! This month we are starting off with a funny memory from Diane Carlson, a special memory from Pam Best, and a "hope for the future" statement from Ellen Shrader. In the months ahead, we invite you to share your own memories, hopes and dreams so we can make this truly everyone's celebration! If you wish to contribute something, please email it to office@flcmonmouth.org or drop it off at the church office so we can include it.

Thank you,
150th Anniversary Committee

I hope for First Lutheran to continue to prosper in all ways and share the love of God with everyone who comes through our doors and everyone in our community.

-Ellen Shrader

Stan and I were married on June 19th, 1976. A friend of his said he was going to spike the punch at our wedding reception. He had hogs get out that afternoon, so he was not able to attend our wedding. But he had his sister and another friend do his deed. They were wives of Stan's groomsmen. How we know this happened, Pastor Youngquist saw them do it. We thought it was the two girls but were not sure. They finally owned up to the deed about 5 years ago.

- Diane Carlson

When I think of First Lutheran Church, one of the first thoughts that pops into my head is of my Grandpa Bowman. Algot Bowman (AJ) came to America from Sweden when he was sixteen years old. He married my grandma, Maxine Kobler, and they were faithful members of FLC. As a child, whenever we would sing "Children of the Heavenly Father", I would think of my grandpa, as I was told that was his favorite hymn. Another thing he was well known for was his love of Christmas decorations. The picture here shows the church all decked out at Christmas time, largely as a result of his love and devotion to both the Christmas season and his church. Several people here have shared memories of my grandpa with me, for which I am so grateful, as he died shortly before I turned five. But I will always associate him with our church...

- Pam Best



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Pat Root	2/1/1964	54 years
Kenneth & Nancy Reynolds	2/22/1975	43 years

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Elaine Sander	2/8	Gary Martin	2/17	Connie Larimer	2/28
Becky Terpening	2/11	Mary Jane Olson	2/18	Graham Johnson	2/29
Ross Beedle	2/15	Teresa Miller	2/26		
Keirstyn Johnson	2/17	Heidi Niemann	2/27		

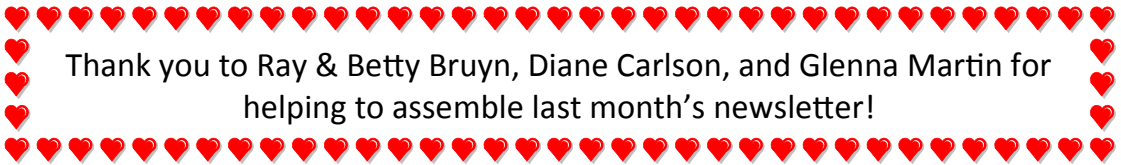
Know a College Student's Address?

As we update and verify our entire database, college students - whose addresses can change annually - require special attention. If you, your child/grandchild, or your friend has entered or graduated college in the last several years, please contact the church office to share their current contact information so we can stay connected with them during this important season in their life.

Our Church in Your Inbox

First Lutheran has recently started delivering the monthly newsletter via email. If you would like to receive your newsletter this way, send an email to office@flcmonmouth.org. If you're intrigued, but not sure you're ready to switch, please email the office anyway - you can get the newsletter both ways (mail and email) while you decide!

<u><i>Sarah</i></u> <i>Rose Youngquist</i>	<u>WELCA Circles</u> FEBRUARY	<u><i>Naomi</i></u> <i>Betty Bruyn</i>
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 Thank you to Ray & Betty Bruyn, Diane Carlson, and Glenna Martin for helping to assemble last month's newsletter!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

K-5 Sunday School

Sunday School for children in grades K-5 meets at 9:30am in the main floor Sunday School room in the education building with Judy Sanberg serving as the teacher. If you have friends or neighbors with children in that age group who do not have a church home, please encourage them to come to Sunday School!

Middle and High School Sunday School

Ellen and Mark Shrader lead a weekly Sunday School class for middle and high school youth Sundays at 9:30am in the Pastors' Office. All middle and high school youth and friends are invited to this fun faith-building learning and sharing time.

Mark and Ellen usually bring treats to share...even more reason to attend!

Confirmation Update

During Lent, the Confirmation Class for middle and high school youth will participate in First Lutheran's Lenten Journey...attending Ash Wednesday worship, the Lenten Wednesday Church Family Meal Night, and Holy Week Experiential Journey to the Cross worship. Regular Wednesday night classes will resume after Easter. New youth are always welcome as we seek to grow in our relationship with Jesus. Contact Pastor Jeff for further information.

Weekday Heart to Heart Encounters with Jesus Study

The Wednesday afternoon *Heart to Heart Encounters with Jesus* studies with Pastor Jeff will not be meeting during February or March so that study participants can participate in the Lenten Wednesday Church Family Meal Nights.

This weekly study of the parables of Jesus will resume after Easter.

2018 Offering Envelopes

Numbered offering envelopes for 2018 are still available.

If you'd like envelopes but haven't requested them yet, the simplest method is to fill out the second half of a commitment card and drop it in the plate.

Or contact the office via any method to make your request!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Worship Volunteer Sign-Up Update!

We need following additional worship helpers at the 10:30 am service in February: Communion Assistants on the 4th and 18th, and Ushers on the 25th. If you would like to serve, look for the sign-up sheet in the back narthex on Sunday. *New sign-up sheets for March – May for both worship services will be available by mid-February.* If you would be willing to greet people before worship and serve as ushers, read the lessons and prayers, or set-up and serve communion, please check for specific openings on the sign-up sheet after worship or call the church office.

Stephen's Ministry Program Returning

At the December Council meeting, the Council agreed to explore again becoming a congregation that engages in the Stephen's Ministry program. This is a way to involve more members in the pastoral care of the congregation. Stephen's ministers are trained to minister into specific situations in the lives of members of First and the community. The first step is to send a group of people to a one-day orientation session sometime this spring. The costs will be paid for by the congregation. From there, we would develop a Stephen's Ministry leadership team and a program to train ministers and identify needs. In addition to supporting the ministry of First Lutheran, this will be an excellent beginning for a new pastor.

If you are interested in joining this team or getting more information, please contact Pastor Vince at (262) 323-6189 or by email at vince@flcmonmouth.org. Thanks.

Tech Booth Volunteers Needed

We are creating a tech booth for sound and projection in the center of the balcony. If you are computer and/or sound savvy, we would love to have you on our new tech team to advance slides and adjust sound. If interested, contact Pastor Jeff.

Want to Join the FLC Worship Band?

If you have musical gifts (vocal or instrumental) and would like to explore serving on FLC's worship band, please speak with Janice Algren (keyboardist) or any other member of the worship band after Sunday worship.

WORSHIP HELPERS FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Altar Care: Mary Jane Olson

Altar Flowers: 4 - OPEN
11 - OPEN
18 - OPEN
25 - OPEN

Lectors

Chapel: 4 Elaine Sander, 11 Robin Johnson, 18 & 25 Kay Lovdahl

Sanctuary: 4 Wendy Anderson, 11 Ted Hanson,
18 Pam Best, 25 Mark Shrader

Communion Assistants

Chapel: 4 Robin Johnson, 11 Ray Golden, 18 & 25 Cecil Lovdahl

Sanctuary: 4 Ray Bruyn & OPEN, 11 Gary Sanberg,
18 OPEN & OPEN, 25 Ellen Shrader

Acolytes

Acolyte: 4 Elise Blaesing, 11 & 25 Collin Nuckles, 18 Derek Johnston



Please Remember in Your Prayers

Shane Johnson, Ryder Armstrong, Peggy Kulczewski,
Cathy Bush Raymer, Mary Beedle, Melvin Schlicker, Angela Bradley-Volz,
Marjorie Swanson, Ruth Fluke, Kathy Bertelsen Keever, Richard
Reynolds, Roger Sander, Evelyn Volz, Libby Shrader, and Bob Matson

As a reminder to all, we have changed how we maintain the prayer list. If you have someone you would like included on the prayer list, please contact the church office. Please let Courtney know who you would like included on the prayer list, and for how long you would like them on the list. Also let her know if we can include them on our website.

First Lutheran Church Council Highlights

December 12, 2017

(approved January 9, 2017)

Living as Children of God;

Joyful in Worship, Faithful in Service

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm by President Steve Erlandson, followed with prayer by Pastor Jeff.

Present: Pastor Vince, Pastor Jeff, Steve Erlandson, Connie Larimer, Diane Carlson, Butch Johnson, Rose Sandstrom, and Ben Sanberg.

Motioned, Seconded, and Approved

- Minutes from November 7th Council Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Term Call for 2018 has been renewed for Pastor Vince and Pastor Jeff.
- Congregational Annual Meeting will be January 28th between services at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Message of Thanks from Church Council:

- Naomi Circle for serving the Chili & Oyster Supper.
- Diane Carlson and the many volunteers for serving dinner at the Southwest Conference meeting on Nov 14th, and Thanksgiving Dinner to the congregation.
- Cecil & Kay Lovdahl and Butch & Kaye Johnson for decorating the chapel.
- Steve Erlandson, Neal Heerwagen, David Sandstrom, and Chris Algren for decorating the sanctuary.
- Karen Erlandson, Connie Larimer, Sue Hanson, DeeDee Yez, Diane Carlson, Susie Jurgens, Patti Linman and Julie Blaesing for decorating the sanctuary.
- Christian Education Committee for the Sankta Lucia reception in the Fellowship Hall on December 10th.

Old Business

- Leadership Retreat will be Saturday, January 27th, 2018.
- Jan 21st 2018 – 150th Anniversary in planning
- Finance Committee met on Friday, December 15th at 4:30pm.

Pastor Reports

Jeff: Confirmation class is doing well, also the Heart-to-Heart Bible Study.

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds

- Replaced the water heater in the janitor's closet.
- Working on replacing the flagpole in the parking lot.

Christian Education & Youth

- December 17th Bibles will be handed out to the youth.
- Little bags will be handed out to the children at Christmas Eve service.
- No Sunday School on December 24th or December 31st.

Dream Team

- Update Summary: will keep us informed. Had a good meeting on December 4th with lots of enthusiasm.

Day Care & Pre-School Board

- Committee for the risk management is set and needs to be approved.

Personnel Committee

- Meeting was scheduled on December 4th with Courtney Traviolia to renew and complete the annual evaluation.

Stewardship

- 26 sheets of offering our time and talents for 2018 have been returned.

New Business

- Lenten mid-week gatherings. Soup & salad potlucks and table group Bible study at 6pm on Wednesdays. Starts Ash Wednesday (Feb 14th – first supper Feb 21st)

Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm with prayer by Pastor Vince.

Next meeting is January 9th, 2018 at 6pm.

-Connie Larimer, Secretary

(FULL MINUTES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S LEADERS

PASTORS

Jeff Linman
jeff@flcmonmouth.org
(828) 216-7233

Vince Marolla
vince@flcmonmouth.org
(262) 323-6189

OFFICERS

President: Steve Erlandson
Treasurer: Gary Sanberg

Vice President: Cecil Lovdahl
Secretary: Connie Larimer

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS (2017-2018)

Ray Bruyn, Diane Carlson, Butch Johnson
Ben Sanberg, Rose Sandstrom, Ellen Shrader

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

Feb 2 - 150 years of First Lutheran Church!

Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday Services
@ noon & 7pm in the Sanctuary

Feb 18 - Heritage Month Social Hour
9:15am - 10:15am

Feb 21 - 1st Cross+Walk Gathering

Our Church

The deadline for the next newsletter is
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018 at 8AM.
Please submit your articles by the deadline.

Articles for submission to Our Church
may be edited to fit the format.

Whenever possible, please submit articles
via e-mail (message text or attachment).

Thank you!