



Our Church

(309) 734-2106 office@flcmonmouth.org

Volume CL Issue 7

SEPTEMBER 2018

Greetings...

My name is Pastor Jamie, and I am honored to have been called to be your next pastor. My official beginning with you is September 4th and my first Sunday is September 9th. Don't panic if you don't find me right away the first week, as my family transitions into a new home we are hoping to close on. But I will be at the Prime Beef Festival, and I will be accessible by phone at any time so don't hesitate to call if you need pastoral care.

I want to give you just a brief introduction. My wife, Katie, and I have been married for 21 years. We have three children: Heide, 16; Nate, 14; and, Trace, 9. We have three pets: our black lab Alice, and our two cats Klutz and Felice. As a family, we enjoy being outdoors camping, hiking or biking. Personally, I enjoy model railroading, genealogy, writing, watching the Chicago Cubs and Blackhawks and Bears, and serving God as pastor.

It is truly hard to capture a full introduction in just a couple short paragraphs. I look forward to getting to know you as your pastor and serving with you as God leads us to reach out where there is need in Monmouth and beyond.

Peace,
Pastor Jamie

...and Farewell.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from our God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. I write these words to you with a changed heart. When I started this "short-term part-time interim" in November of 2015, I thought I would be leaving you much sooner. But God had other plans.

In the time that I have been here, I have baptized some, married one, viewed graduates and others in transition and buried way too many saints. Some have joined the family of God at First Lutheran while others have left. I have preached a whole lot of sermons, led a bunch of worship and mentioned the Packers far too many times for some of you. I have been gentle in my care of this flock, I hope, but have also spoken the word of truth when needed. I have re-learned what it is to minister to a congregation that is tied to the ups and downs, more downs than ups, of the farm economy. I have witnessed the grief, as young people move away to seek a different life in a different place.

I have watched First Lutheran open up and become a more inviting place to Monmouth and beyond. I have seen old relationships within the community strengthened, and I have watched the Dream Team and the gifts of Pastor Jeff create new and unique opportunities for ministry in this congregation, in Monmouth and beyond.

Throughout this time, I have tried to live the advice that I was given by a treasured Seminary Professor – love your congregation. I have accepted your love and I have tried to listen to your past, your pain, your hopes and your dreams.

As I say goodbye, I lift up again the themes that I believe sustain and support First Lutheran as children of God. These themes, when lived in action – remember Christian is a verb – will sustain and grow this ministry. First, love one another – no exceptions. Second – live Matthew 25 – feed and clothe and shelter and visit without judgement. Never judge those who you help for you may be there someday. And finally, work for justice for all of the people of God including the least of these.

And my advice to you about your new Pastor and family – be open, be patient, care for them, love them and pray for them.

In Christ,
Pastor Vince

Dear Friends at First Lutheran,

I shared my farewell reflections on my time here in the last newsletter. All that's left is for me to once again thank you for the privilege of coming home to serve these past 20 months and for the many kindnesses you have shown Patti and me. It has been an unexpected circle of life blessing in many ways. I would invite your prayers for us as well as for Pastor Vince as we all begin new seasons in ministry.

What will the future hold? In the short-term, Patti and I will be heading to our home in North Carolina on September 17th. I will return to pick up our second car and then head to Scales Mound, IL the last weekend in September to lead a DreamLeaders weekend. On my way home I have been invited to preach at the Svensk Högmässa (Swedish High Mass) at the Jenny Lind Chapel in Andover, at 4pm Sunday, September 30th. So I will stop there before heading to North Carolina a final time. This opportunity is yet another unexpected blessing. If you'd like to experience this historic Swedish service...quite a bit of which is spoken in Swedish...you're welcome to attend! We will also be returning, along with my brother, Jon, I hope, for First Lutheran's final 150th Anniversary Service on October 28th.

In the long-term, only God knows what is yet to come. As of September 1st, I will join the Retired Roster of the ELCA but I have no intention to retire from my passion to renew the church for the sake of future generations. I am trusting, as I hope you are too, the promise of Jeremiah 29:11 that I left with you in July: *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.* And I am also trusting the witness of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:6 *“that the one who began a good work among (us) will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ!”*

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff (and Patti)

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.

Back to Our Future: A Never-Ending Story!

Dear Members and Friends of FLC,

Our big 150th Anniversary Homecoming event will be Reformation Sunday, October 28th. Stay tuned for other events! In the meantime, this monthly anniversary page is a place for you to share special memories (funny, meaningful, hopeful, surprising, reflective, you name it), as well as hope and dreams for our future. Contributions from everyone, including pictures, are welcomed! Email them to office@flcmonmouth.org or drop them off at church!

Thank you!

-150th Anniversary Committee

My memories of my time at First tend to be bittersweet: the bitter involve burying so many good people whom I had come to be fond of, to respect, whose life stories could be fascinating and often moving, and whose opinions and advice I valued. Shortly before I retired I went through the church records and found that of the many funerals I conducted, fifty or more were for active and regularly-attending members; that's a lot of vacant seats on Sundays. An honor, to be sure, but a sad one, was also to lay to rest two great colleagues, Pastors Youngquist and Olsen, whom I treasured as friends and deeply respected as Churchmen.

But there are sweet memories as well. I came to First convinced that congregations could not just continue the 'same-old, same-old,' always thinking in terms of "us," but had to become open, welcoming—and actively inviting others into the fellowship of the Gospel. I encouraged replacing the church sign facing the wrong way on a one-way street with an illuminated message-sign, as well as adding directional signs inside the church so that outsiders might feel less 'lost' It took two tries, but we put a handicapped-accessible restroom in the narthex so that those with disabilities could feel more comfortable here. I encouraged installation of illuminated exit signs and emergency lighting to make our building a safer place—and radon-abatement to make it and the pre-school a healthier place. These were accomplishments to celebrate.

My fondest memories, though, are of the children: sitting on the front row for a children's message—and stopping on the way back to their seats to ask a question (sending me fumbling for my microphone switch, not knowing what was going to be asked). And the final few years of confirmation classes were by far my most enjoyable ones in 39+ years of ministry, with active give-and-take and free-form discussions. And, of course, those trips into Chicago, giving our younger folk a taste of the immensity, excitement, and rich resources of that marvelous city ... and we always came back with just as many as we left with.

And of course, many good-hearted and faithful people, whose dedication to their Lord, interest in learning and willingness to be in loving service to others—these, too, are among the sweet memories of First Lutheran.

- *Pastor Keith Killinger*



Alexia Golden, Jacob Ide, Heather Ide, Rachael Nuckles, Pr. Killinger, Emma Nuckles, and Justin Barney, on their way to Chicago in 2012.

Check Out FLC's Website!

Visited flcmonmouth.org lately? You should! First Lutheran's website has been growing and changing. Want to double-check the time or date of an event?

Try flcmonmouth.org/calendar - you can view a pdf of the latest newsletter calendar, or - even better! - scroll down to see the same building calendar the church office runs on. If anything looks wrong there, use the contact form on the home page to let Courtney know before the dis-information spreads!

LIVING OUT OUR MISSION: FAITHFUL IN SERVICE!

Ongoing Dream Team Projects

EFL Tutoring Update

The summer tutoring program has ended with everyone - both students and tutors - having a truly blessed experience. Plans to continue in some way in the fall are being explored. Contact Judy Sanberg or Pam VanKirk for details.

The Open Table

The Open Table is a nationally recognized faith and relationship based poverty program that the Dream Team has introduced in Warren County. Jeannie Weber, Executive Director of the Warren County United Way, has agreed to provide on-going leadership for the launch effort. Funding applications are being submitted, and grant awards will be announced in November.

For further information contact Doug Cruce or Pam VanKirk.

Alternative School Crisis Closet

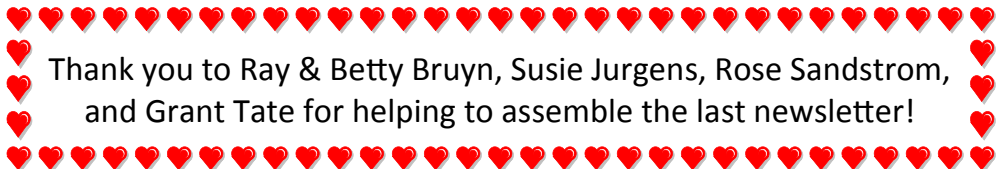
FLC has offered to help keep the crisis closet at the Alternative School stocked. 25% of the 40 students are homeless so the needs are always changing. Watch the weekly emails and bulletins or contact Kay Lovdahl for updates.

Birthday Cakes for Alternative School Students

Starting in August we will be furnishing Birthday Cakes to the students on their birthdays. We will need around 40 cakes throughout the school year. If you would like to volunteer to furnish a Birthday Cake please contact Diane Carlson.

The Open Door

Will be re-launching in November after the time change. Warren Dobry has details.



 Thank you to Ray & Betty Bruyn, Susie Jurgens, Rose Sandstrom,

 and Grant Tate for helping to assemble the last newsletter!

PRIME BEEF FESTIVAL

Planning for this year's Prime Beef Festival and First Lutheran's food tent is well underway! The food tent will operate September 5th-8th (Wed-Sat). Look for a shift sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary on September 2nd.

Becky Terpening will be making festival pies again this year. For the same price as last year (\$11 per pie), she will make them, deliver them to the church, and mark your name off the list. Call her with your order at (309) 768-2590. Mail checks to:

Becky Terpening
1570 50th St
Kirkwood, IL 61447

Our Church in Your Inbox

First Lutheran is now 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Farewell Reception - September 2nd

On September 2nd, we are having a farewell reception for Pastor Vince, Pastor Jeff and Patti. Please join us after Church to send them off to their next adventure.

- Diane Carlson

Church Women United Love Tea - September 14th

Church Women United will meet September 14 for their Love Tea. It will be held at Little Cedar Church in Little York, IL. It will take place at 1:30 pm. The program will be Show God's love to all.

- Betty Bruyn

Dear Church Family,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support in my efforts to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through the Memphis to Peoria run earlier this month. This year's experience was no different than last year. It was most definitely just as rewarding. I'm so thankful for your support because without it I would struggle to reach and surpass my fundraising goal.

As I continue to do this year after year, I have found that my mindset has shifted. When I started participating in the Galesburg run a few years ago, my initial focus was on how many total miles I could run. After a few years of participating, I have quickly learned that no amount of miles can heal any of those sick kids and it's much more about the fundraising. The money is what helps the medical staff research and find new treatments and medications to help these kids. So while I continue to run just as much as I did year one, my yearly mission has shifted to beating my fundraising efforts from the year before.

Thank you again for the monetary donations, the thoughts, the prayers, and the support. You each play a key role in my involvement each year supporting this amazing organization. I truly appreciate my church family today and every day! So until next year...

Sincerely,
Wendy Anderson



Vision & Purpose

The September 30th Vision and Purpose Offering will be received for the Northern Illinois Synod's Gifts for Mission Outreach Fund.

Gifts may be left as you leave worship in the containers provided by the exit doors.
Thank you for whatever you are able to share!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education will be coordinating closely with Pastor Jamie.

As he does not officially begin at First Lutheran until September 4th, many things will not be decided before this newsletter is printed. Keep an eye on the weekly bulletins and emails for starting dates for the following ministries, or reach out to the listed contacts to offer your services or get involved in the planning!

K-5 Sunday School

Contact: Pam Best, Judy Sanberg

Middle and High School Sunday School

Contact: Mark & Ellen Shrader

Confirmation

Will resume after the pastoral transition.

FLC @ MC Campus Ministry

Free Welcome Supper at 5pm on Monday, August 27th.

Students should RSVP by calling or texting Pastor Jeff at (828) 216-7233.

A date for meeting Pastor Jamie will be decided at the supper.

We did it again!!! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, for making this year's VBS the best one ever! Because of your prayers, donations, and hard work, our VBS was a huge success again this year!

Thank you for your continued dedication. See you all next year.
God Bless,

- Miss Chris and the Christian Ed
Committee of First United Methodist
Church



WORSHIP HELPERS – SEPTEMBER 2018

Altar Care: Mary Jane Olson

Altar Flowers: 2 - Margaret Hackspacher, 9 - Doug & Kathi Cruce,
16 - OPEN, 23 - OPEN, 30 - OPEN

Acolytes

Acolyte: 2 & 23 Elise Blaesing, 9 & 30 Derek Johnston, 16 Collin Nuckles

Lectors

Chapel: 9, 16, 23 Elaine Sander, 30 Kay Lovdahl

Sanctuary: 2 Brian Elliott, 9 OPEN, 16 OPEN, 23 OPEN, 30 OPEN

Communion Assistants

Chapel: 9 OPEN, 16 OPEN, 23 OPEN, 30 Gary Martin

Sanctuary: 2 Rose Sandstrom, 9 OPEN, 16 OPEN & OPEN,
23 OPEN, 30 OPEN & OPEN

Sign-ups available both at flcmonmouth.org/worship-helpers and at church!



Please Remember in Your Prayers

Ryder Armstrong, Ruth Fluke, Shane Johnson, Kathy Bertelsen Kever, Peggy Kulczewski, Melvin Schlicker, Marjorie Swanson, Richard Reynolds, Bill Root, Marjorie Smith, Austin Loving, John Petersen, Cheryl Clark, Louise Parks, Ann Guidinger & family, Loretta Reynolds.

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, for how long, and if we can include their name on our website.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Wendell & Lorene Nelson	9/17/1950	68 years
Phil & Dixie Larson	9/4/1955	63 years
Dennis & Denise Mann	9/2/1978	40 years
Bryan & Keri Osborn	9/5/1992	26 years

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ila Roseberry	9/1	Brian Elliott	9/8	Dennis Mann	9/23
Marjorie Swanson	9/3	Don Fillman	9/12	Maddie Blaesing	9/28
Chris Algren	9/4	Kirk Moulden	9/17	Brian Larson	9/30

<u>WELCA Circles</u>	
SEPTEMBER	
<u>Sarah</u>	<u>Naomi</u>
NO MEETING	NO MEETING

First Lutheran Church Special Congregational Meeting Minutes July 8, 2018

Meeting called to order at 3:05pm

Church members present - 66

- Introduction by Ben Sanberg
- Devotional led by Pastor Jamie Gallagher
- Q&A with Pastor Jamie
- Compensation package discussion
- Congregational vote
- Unanimous vote to extend offer to Pastor Jamie

Meeting adjourned at 4:21pm

Ellen Shrader, Council Secretary

First Lutheran Church Council Highlights

June 24, 2018

(approved August 14, 2018)

Living as Children of God;

Joyful in Worship, Faithful in Service

Recognition for the incoming and outgoing Council Members – a potluck dinner was held at 5:30pm, with the Council meeting following.

The meeting was called to order at 6:20pm by Ben Sanberg, followed with prayer by Pastor Jeff.

Present: Pastor Jeff, Pastor Vince, Ben Sanberg, Ray Bruyn, Dave Bost, Diane Carlson, Steve Erlandson, Jim Johnson, Connie Larimer, Rose Sandstrom.

Motioned, Seconded, and Approved

- Minutes from June 12th Council Meeting with one correction.
- Minutes from June 26th Council Meeting with corrections.
- Minutes from July 8th Special Congregational Meeting.
- \$13,000 loan to Pastor Jamie for down payment on house in Monmouth. Repayment legal documents to be draw up by Andrew Youngquist.
- Treasurer's Report
- First Lutheran Church's name can be used on the grant to be applied for through The Open Table Foundation
- First Lutheran continues to sponsor missionaries in Tanzania. Since the Stubbs family has stepped down following the death of Carol Stubbs, our support will transition to the Rich family.
- When Pastor determines they are ready, Council has affirmed Membership for two people.

Message of Thanks:

- Anniversary Committee for the picnic at the park.
- Doug & Kathi Cruce for donating the hamburger.
- Steve Erlandson, Collin Nuckles, and Doug Cruce for cooking the meat.
- The Call Committee for time spent finding our new Pastor.
- Vacation Bible School volunteers and all who donated.

Old Business

- Pastor Jamie Gallagher's official start date will be September 1st, 2018. He will preach first on September 9th.

- Pastor Jeff and Pastor Vince's official end dates will be August 31st, 2018, but they will be available for Pastor Jamie if needed.
- Safety Update: In process, needs to go to Building & Grounds committee.
- Member & Participant Directory is being finalized by Diane Carlson for review.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Vince

- Did one funeral for Carl Houtcher.
- Rich Reynolds is now at the Roseville Nursing Home.

Pastor Jeff

- Four baptisms scheduled, hosting classes for several people considering membership.
- Doug Cruce will take over from Pastor Jeff as the Dream Team's leader.

Tabled reports from Committees.

New Business

- Pastor Jeff will continue to live in the Parish House apartment until mid-September unless the space is needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Next meeting is August 14th, 2018 at 7pm.

-Connie Larimer, substituting for Ellen Shrader

(FULL MINUTES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S LEADERS

PASTOR

Jamie Gallagher

priamie@flcmonmouth.org

(630) 200-3550

OFFICERS

President: Ben Sanberg

Vice President: Ray Bruyn

Treasurer: Gary Sanberg

Secretary: Ellen Shrader

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS (2018-2019)

Dave Bost, Diane Carlson, Steve Erlandson,
Jim Johnson, Connie Larimer, Rose Sandstrom

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Sep 2** - Single Service @ 10:30am
- Pastors Farewell Reception @ 11:45am
- Sep 5** - First Day of PBF Food Tent
- Sep 8** - Final Day of PBF Food Tent
- Sep 9** - Pastor Jamie's first Sunday
- Sep 14** - CWU's Love Tea @ 1:30pm
(Little Cedar Church in Little York, IL)

Our Church

The deadline for the next newsletter is **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 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!