



Our Church

(309) 734-2106 office@flcmonmouth.org

Volume CL Issue 9

NOVEMBER 2018

***Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Thanksgiving is approaching. This is a holiday with roots going back to the harvest festivals of the earliest European settlers in America. It is a day set aside for giving thanks. Though, in many ways it has become a day set aside for large family feasts, football, and shopping for Christmas. Yet, in its purest form, we still idealize Thanksgiving as a time to sit at the table with family and sharing reasons to give thanks for the past year.

While the annual turkey feast is being prepared, it is important to realize this once a year holiday is not the only time to give thanks. In fact, giving thanks is something we ought to always do. Each day. Every circumstance. Give thanks in all circumstances, Paul writes to the Thessalonians. "It is right, our duty and our delight, that we should give thanks to you, O God, at all times and in all places ..." we say each Sunday as we celebrate the Holy Supper of Communion.

Giving thanks should not be the last thing on our mind, it should be the first. And it is easy to think about giving thanks when something good is happening. When we have new life to celebrate, good grades, pay raises, better crop yields. It is not so easy to give thanks when we have lost a loved one, or lost a job, or struggle to get the crops in on time. It is even more difficult to give thanks when life is just normal, rolling along, not something great happening at this moment, nothing too tragic either, just daily, routine life.

Why is it that we need a special holiday to remind ourselves to give thanks? Should not Paul's words be enough encouragement? Should not our weekly celebrating communion give us the hint that giving thanks should be always on our forefront? We are human, and we are prone to forgetting the very things we are reminded of on a regular basis.

So, don't enter into Thanksgiving guilty of putting giving thanks on the back burner. Take this holiday as an opportunity to create a new habit within your family. Each time you sit together at dinner, or before you turn on your family favorite TV show or sports, take a moment to give thanks – for each other, for the daily grinding routines, for the great things that happen, and for the opportunities to be with those loved ones we now cherish in our hearts forever. Give thanks, always and often! Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.

Peace,
Pastor Jamie

Back to Our Future: A Never-Ending Story!

Dear Members and Friends of FLC,

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

Dear Members and Friends of First Lutheran Church:

I regret that I cannot be present in person for the celebration of First Lutheran's 150th Anniversary on Reformation Sunday. The complexities of my schedule and responsibilities around the time of the celebration prevent me from making the trip. However, I am very much with you in spirit and in prayers of thanksgiving as you celebrate.

I have enjoyed reading the testimonies of many in the "Our Church" newsletter concerning their memories and experiences of First Lutheran. Inspired by their example, I wish to offer my own story of thanks. In brief, and I don't think I am overstating things, I believe that First Lutheran Church saved my life. Many long-time members will remember that my mother struggled with her health. On

those occasions of worry at home, it was the members of First Lutheran who became extended family to us, offering care and support, and a palpable sense of belonging to something bigger than our struggles at home. Such acts of kindness contributed to my family's sense of well-being and belonging.

Even more importantly, it was also at First Church that I learned that Christ is my salvation for eternity. So it is that I give thanks to the many Sunday School teachers and others who helped to form me in Christian faith. I remember in particular, as have many, Rosa Fillman, the congregation's parish worker and office secretary, but who in many ways was also an assistant minister of the church. In Rosa, we experienced genuine, simple, but deep faith and reverence for the Lord. I also remember and give thanks for Pastor Raymond Swanson, who baptized me. Likewise, I give thanks to God for Pastor Gerald Youngquist and Rose. Pastor Youngquist confirmed me and was a sponsor for my ordination into Word and Sacrament ministry.

Who I am as a pastor, now on the brink of 30 years in ministry, was greatly shaped by the people and piety of First Lutheran Church in Monmouth. I frequently call to mind memories and experiences – singing in the choir, playing trumpet for services, preaching my first sermon, leading Sunday worship, family funerals, and also many celebratory occasions – which together contributed greatly to my formation as a person of faith and a pastor in Christ's Church. I could go on and on with reminiscences. In fact, I am doing so now in my mind's eye as I write.

Suffice it to say, for all of this, for all of you, I give abundant thanks, to you and to God. I wish First Church a bright future in mission in the community under the leadership of a new pastor. May God bless your celebrations of 150 years and your hopeful anticipation of many more decades of witness and service.

With great appreciation in Christ Jesus,

The Rev. Jonathan Linman

Our Day Care Center Fundraiser Ends Oct 30!

For more information, check out our Facebook Page '[Lutheran Preschool and Day Care Center](#)' or go to www.mythirtyone.com/1790150.

This fundraiser will allow us to purchase new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) toys. Thank you for your continuing support of our Pre-school and Day Care Ministry.

All orders should be turned in by October 30th!

Checks (please add 6.25% for sales tax) should be made out to Lisa Willett.

All Saints Sunday - November 4

This year we remember.....

Mary Beedle

Paul Bethell

Carol Clark

Dolores 'Dode' Johnson

Robert 'Bob' Matson



UPCOMING EVENTS

World Community Day - November 2

Church Women United's World Community Day will be held November 2nd at Cameron Christian Church. There will be a noon luncheon provided by the CWU Board Members, followed by a 1pm Business meeting and a 1:15pm program on "Reaching For Wholeness in Harmony With God's People". There will be a free will donation basket set out for the luncheon.

Chili & Oyster Stew Supper - November 11 @ 5pm

Take a night off from cooking, and join us for the annual Chili & Oyster Stew Supper! Hot dogs are available for the less adventurous, and the meal will be rounded off with dessert and drinks. Tickets can be purchased from church members or at the door, with proceeds going to local projects of Women of the ELCA.

Thanksgiving Worship - November 18

This Thanksgiving, worship with your family on Sunday, November 18th during our regular worship times: 8:15am and 10:30am. We will lift up themes of thanksgiving during worship. Also, during the Sunday school time at 9:30am, we will have an activity for all ages - from 1 to 99. Join us as an entire family: children, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents. Join us if you don't have children or grandchildren. Join us if your parents or grandparents live far away. Join us - We are the Family of God learning together to give thanks!

Pastor Jamie is traveling from Nov 1 to Nov 4 to Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE for the National Youth Summit. Pastor Jamie is accompanying his son, Nate, who is attending this event at the invitation of the ELCA Disabilities Ministry. This event will feature over 200 high school youth from across the country. Pastor Jamie's daughter, Heide, is also attending at the invitation of the Northern Illinois Synod. This event focuses on Advocacy and faith. The youth participating will learn about how the ELCA advocacy ministry works and how they can be involved. Please keep Pastor Jamie, Nate, and Heide in your prayers as they travel to the National Youth Summit.

Seeking Faith Mentors

The Confirmation class is seeking faith mentors. Faith mentors are individuals who want to form a relationship with one of our youth as they prepare for the rite of affirmation of faith. Faith Mentors do NOT need to be experts in Bible knowledge. Faith Mentors should be willing to learn with the youth, attend confirmation class often with the youth, and participate in worship and service projects with the youth. This is an important role, but not one to be scared of.

This is a role that can be fulfilled by someone young or old, male or female.

This is something you should feel God calling you to be a part of, as it does require a bit of commitment throughout the year. But this is something that is about relationship-building. Faith mentors will give the students another role model in the church to look up to. The students do not need already perfect role models. They need role models who are growing in faith, and can be honest with them about the journey of faith. If you are interested in being a faith mentor, we have need for at least 2 faith mentors - though more are always welcome - please let Pastor Jamie know and he will pair you with a student.

Alternative School Outreach Closet Collecting

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.

With fall fast approaching, the following items are needed, as many of the students walk to school all fall and winter:

- Umbrellas and socks
- Travel size basic hygiene products are always needed (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and feminine products), as well as full size spray deodorant (which can be shared).
- Pencils, paper, and erasers always needed

Items can be placed in the blue boxes in the Narthex or Chapel (marked Alternative School Outreach) Questions? Call Kay Lovdahl (309-224-5734)

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES



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 teacher.

Youth Sunday School

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



If you have friends or neighbors with children who do not have a church home, please encourage them to come to Sunday School!



Dating back to 2002, our four most recent pastors are Keith Killinger, Vince Marolla, Jeff Linman, and Jamie Gallagher. As we look back over our 150 years in existence, we give thanks for these men and those who came before them for the 'good and kind' shepherds that they have been to us at First Lutheran. And we look forward to many more years to come!



SEWING CIRCLE



Quilts pictured in these photos are some of the 36 made by our Sewing Circle this year. They will join others from congregations throughout the ELCA that are shipped to third world countries to aid in refugee relief.

Also included will be 8 school kits assembled by Naomi Circle members and 10 health kits from Sarah Circle members. Quilts are also given to countries around the world, including the US, for help from natural disaster destruction.

Shown packing these donations are DeeDee Yez,
Kay Bailey, Betty Bruyn, and Diane Carlson.

If any of you have pieces of new material you are willing to give our Sewing Circle for future quilts, they would be appreciated. You can leave material at church, or call Rose Youngquist at (309) 734-2944 to have your material picked up at home.

Thanks!

WORSHIP HELPERS – NOVEMBER 2018

Altar Care: DeeDee Yez

Altar Flowers: 4 Cecil & Kay Lovdahl, 11 OPEN, 18 OPEN, 25 Gary Martin

Acolytes

Acolyte: 4 Elise Blaesing, 11 OPEN, 18 OPEN, 25 OPEN

Lectors

Chapel: 4 Rob Ravel, 11 & 18 Elaine Sander, 25 Kay Lovdahl

Sanctuary: 4 Brian Elliott, 11 Ellen Shrader,
18 Eloise Swisher, 25 Judy Sanberg

Communion Assistants

Chapel: 4 & 11 Ray Golden, 18 Gary Martin, 25 Cecil Lovdahl

Sanctuary: 4 OPEN, 11 Mark Shrader & OPEN,
18 OPEN, 25 Gary Sanberg & OPEN

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



Please Remember in Your Prayers

Ryder Armstrong, Shane Johnson, Kathy Bertelsen Keever,
Peggy Kulczewski, Austin Loving, Louise Parks, Richard Reynolds,
Bill Root, Marjorie Smith, Marjorie Swanson, Ann Guidinger & family,
Fran Bost, Kevin Terpening, Dave Erlandson

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.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dave & Fran Bost	11/14/1986	32 years
Ross & Mary Beedle	11/21/1998	20 years

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Christa Waller	11/4	Jan Martin	11/19	Ray Golden	11/28
Lorna Utter	11/7	Delmar Champion	11/22	Pat Root	11/29
Ted Hanson	11/9	Jenny Sanberg	11/23	Glenna Martin	11/30
Theodore Coombes	11/14	Ted Matson	11/25	Judy Sanberg	11/30

WELCA Circles

NOVEMBER

Sarah

Nancy Hanson

Naomi

Linda Ellison

Thanks to the members of the 150th Anniversary Committee (Janice Algren, Kay Bailey, Pam Best, Diane Carlson, Connie Larimer, Ellen Shrader, and Kurt Volz), we celebrated 150 years in amazing style. The worship service on October 28th was fantastic. Thanks to all our returning special guests, what a joy to have you back for our celebration! The meal was wonderfully hosted. The slide presentation was put together by Janice Algren in memory of Pastor Youngquist, who always had a camera with him and left hundreds of slides capturing so many wonderful moments during his tenure with us. May God grant us another 150 years of celebrations and many more beyond.

The Elusive Directory

As we get closer to (finally!) printing a new Contact Directory / Yearbook, everyone's help is appreciated. If you haven't turned in a Household Data Form yet, please pick one up at church (forms are both outside the office and near the offering plates in the back of the sanctuary), fill it out and return it. Or call the office to give your information over the phone. There's no official deadline, but when this happens, it's likely to happen fast, so get your information in now!

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 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!

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!


 Thank you to Betty Bruyn, Diane Carlson, Connie Larimer, and
 Glenna Martin for helping to assemble the last newsletter!

First Lutheran Church Council Highlights

September 11, 2018

(approved October 9, 2018)

The meeting was called to order at 6:55pm by President Ben Sanberg, followed with prayer by Pastor Jamie.

Present: Pastor Jamie, President Ben Sanberg, Ray Bruyn, Ellen Shrader, Diane Carlson, Rose Sandstrom, Dave Bost, Steve Erlandson, Jim Johnson, Kurt Volz (guest)

Motioned, Seconded, and Approved

- Request by Kurt Volz for September Vision & Purpose Offering for Suicide Awareness Support
- Minutes from August 14th Council Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Approved loan for Pastor Jamie (1 abstention)

Message of Thanks

- Prime Beef Festival committee, workers, and especially Connie Larimer and Steve Erlandson
- Rod Kelso/FS for PBF help
- Elliott Brothers for PBF supplies
- 150th Anniversary Committee for PBF float

Old Business

- Assign council members to committees
- Discussion about filling volunteer roles
- FLC street sign research

Pastor's Report

- Thank you to everyone for the welcome
- Installation Service will be Sunday, October 7th at 2pm with dessert reception following
- Confirmation starting September 26
- Campus Ministry continuing this year
- Will discuss Sunday School with the Christian Ed & Youth committee
- Visitation list received from Pastor Vince
- Office hours will be published weekly in the bulletin

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds

- Replacement boiler in Parish House in October
- Tuckpointing project complete
- Security for daycare still being studied

Memorial Fund

- Support new boiler and tuckpointing projects
- Will provide seed money for future fundraising project

Parish Life

- Thanksgiving Meal to be decided

New Business

- Portico Gold Plan for 2019

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm

Next meeting is October 9th at 7pm

Ellen Shrader, Council Secretary

(FULL MINUTES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S LEADERS

PASTOR

Jamie Gallagher

priamie@flcmonmouth.org

(630) 200-3550

OFFICERS

President: Ben Sanberg
Treasurer: Gary Sanberg

Vice President: Ray Bruyn
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:

Nov 2 - Church Women United's World
Community Day @ Cameron Christian Church

Nov 6 - The Open Door begins

Nov 11 - Chili & Oyster Stew Supper @ FLC

Nov 18 - Thanksgiving Worship

Nov 22 - Thanksgiving Day

Our Church

The deadline for the next newsletter
is **8AM on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018.**

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!