



Our Church

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Volume CLI Issue 1

JANUARY 2019

Then [Herod] sent [the wise men] to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

Matthew 2:8

January 6th is the day of Epiphany, it is the 12th day of the Christmas season, and it is the day in worship we celebrate the arrival of the wise men to bring gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh to the baby Jesus. The word 'epiphany' means 'gaining a sudden revelation', or 'experiencing a revealing moment of truth'. In Matthew's story, the epiphany happens when three foreigners come and recognize the baby Jesus as the one God promised to come into the world as the King of the Jews. Their ability to recognize this in Jesus is in stark contrast to the Jewish political leader, Herod. Herod is in charge of Israel, with Rome as his patron. Herod is preparing to give the throne to his son, also named Herod. Herod is not interested in anyone else claiming the throne of Israel. Herod does not experience an epiphany.

But he has an interesting line that he says to the wise men. Just before sending them off to find the baby, Herod tells them to come back to him, so he may go and also pay homage to the new born king. Now, we know Herod is lying. And the wise men will eventually figure out Herod is not one to trust, and they in fact do not go back to him to tell him where Jesus is. We know this, because after Herod realizes he has been duped by the wise men, Herod sends his soldiers to Bethlehem to kill all the boys who are 2 years old or younger, just to make sure there is no growing threat to his power in Israel.

There is a certain level of evilness in a ruler who finds 2-year-old boys a threat, and Herod is all that kind of evilness and more. But I do want to focus for a moment on his quote, "bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

This line, when lifted out of Herod's context, is an invitation to be evangelized. Herod, when he is not being evil and wanting to kill any who threaten him, yearns for Good News. Herod invites Good News to be told to him, even if he doesn't understand what that Good News really means.

This quote by Herod has me wondering, who in our community is asking for Good News, who is inviting us to come to them and bring them the message that we have found the savior? Let's take away the evilness that is associated with Herod for a moment, and wonder together, who may be yearning to hear Good News in our community.

People are hungry for good news. People who have been to a church, people who have never been to a church. People who consider themselves spiritual, people who haven't thought anything about spirituality. People all over Monmouth are craving to be told the Good News. They know people who do go to church – they know you, they want to hear the story, they want to know what this thing happening at church is all about.

The wise men were afraid to go back to Herod, and for good reason. But we should not be afraid of those who have asked us to tell them about Jesus. Not sure where to begin? How about start with, "Join me in worship this week, and hear the Good News as I hear it." You might just give the gift of an epiphany to someone simply by inviting them to come with you.

In Christ,
Pastor Jamie

Annual Meeting - January 27th

First Lutheran's annual meeting will be held Sunday, January 27th at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The main agenda item will be adopting a 2019 Operating Budget.

All Voting Members are asked to attend.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Sunday School Resumes

In January, you are invited to attend a two-part adult Bible study as we have conversation about the sacrament of Holy Communion. This will be during the Sunday school time at 9:30 AM in the Pastor's Study.

Sunday, January 13, we will have part one where we will talk about the theology of the sacrament – what is it? How is Jesus there in that little wafer and small sip of wine?

How do we differ in understanding from other Christians?

Sunday, January 20, we will have part two where we will talk about our communion practices here at First Lutheran – why do we intinct some Sundays and use small cups on others? Why do we gather around the table sometimes but not always? Why do we have it every week? When should the pastor receive communion?

Holy Communion is a sacramental mystery in which Jesus promises to be present with us. But how we experience it really differs on upbringing and piety and many other factors. So, join us, become a part of the conversation, learn from your fellow congregation members, let them learn from you. This is the joy of adult Bible study.

For more questions about the Bible study, please ask Pastor Jamie.

Confirmation

Confirmation resumes on Wednesday, January 9th. This class is open to everyone, not just the three young people working towards their affirmation of faith.

If you would like to join us and grow in faith with these young people, simply show up at 7 PM in the fellowship room. We are currently working through the Bible, using a short video series to learn more about our ancestors in faith.

Youth Sunday School

Ellen and Mark Shrader lead a weekly Sunday School class for middle and high school youth (and friends!) in the lounge near the Fellowship Hall.

K-5 Sunday School

Sunday School for children in grades K-5 is taught by Judy Sanberg in the main floor Sunday School room in the education building. Visitors are welcome!

INTRODUCING...

All-Committee Bible Study Nights

The Council has asked Pastor Jamie to lead us in a study that will help complete some work that was begun during the interim period. Pastor has developed a 6-session study that will help us become reinvigorated with our mission statement and be better prepared to shape our leadership to engage that mission well.

The six studies will be spread out one per month. Everyone who is on a committee is invited to participate. Everyone who wants to be a part of a committee is welcome to come, a place for you will be found. This study will rely heavily on your conversation, and will only be given directing points from pastor.

The results of the study really depend on your participation.

The six nights, all at 7 PM, will be in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, January 22nd; Tuesday, February 26th; Tuesday, March 26th; Tuesday, April 23rd; Tuesday, May 21st; and Tuesday, June 25th.

Each night we will focus on another Bible passage and through our conversation discover how the Word of God is informing our sense of mission together, or how the Word of God is helping us to reform our sense of mission together. The study will use faith practices of sharing, reading, connecting, praying and blessing.

This is for all committees. If you serve on more than one committee, we will find a way for you to participate in one or more of those committees throughout the entire course of the study. If your committee does not meet frequently, you are still invited to this study. If your committee meets monthly, you have the choice of completing your committee work after the study, or to still meet another night of the month. The study itself should take about 45 minutes each month.

Our final study will be a celebration, and will include a meal as we bring all our work together and listen to one another as we take ownership of the mission God is giving our congregation in this place and time.

For more questions, please ask Pastor Jamie.

Parking Lot Flyers

An opportunity for invitation evangelism has been sitting outside our back door, and sometimes it takes a while for God to nudge us to see that invitation. In December, that nudge was finally felt, and a new opportunity has dawned.

When the high school has evening events – such as basketball games or concerts, flyers will be distributed on vehicles parking in our lot (not on the street, and not in the high school lot, only our designated parking lot). These flyers will be invitational.

Perhaps you have already received one as you parked for a game or a concert. If you want to see one, ask Pastor Jamie. These flyers will have an invite to our Sunday worship schedule and Sunday School schedule. These flyers will highlight something particular happening this month at First. This is simply an invitation.

Also, during the week when school is in session, we have an opportunity with the students who park in our lot. This opportunity has led to the creation of a flyer for the students that will include a brief scripture and devotion word that tells them that God loves them; an invitation to our Sunday worship and Sunday School, and an invitation to our youth Open Door event on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, now located in the Parish House.

This flyer for daytime student parking will also include three simple Parking Lot Rules – which include a request that they only park along the fence, there be a limit of 12 cars, and that members have priority parking. It is also mentioned that the church may restrict parking if parking lot courtesies are abused, or there are more cars than the allotted 12 along the fence.

For members who park in the parking lot during the school day, please remember you have priority parking, your spot is guaranteed. You may park along the row of trees. Please, though, do let the office know your car information. You may still get a flyer, the devotional should make it worth it, but you also always have a spot.

For more questions about the parking flyers, please ask Pastor Jamie. He will gladly share with you. And if you would like to assist with flyer distribution, either during school days or during evening high school events, please let Pastor Jamie know.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Delmar & Judy Champion	1/18/1959	60 years
Loretta & Rich Reynolds	1/12/1965	54 years
Bren & Mike Tooley	1/5/1991	28 years

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ellen Shrader	1/3	Nancy Hanson	1/7	Kyle Terpening	1/18
Kay Bailey	1/4	Steve Erlandson	1/8	Kay Lovdahl	1/30
Neal Heerwagen	1/5	Sue Hanson	1/9	Melba Matson	1/30
Mike Jurgens	1/5	Kathy Tate	1/11	Evelyn Volz	1/31
Dennis Terpening	1/5	Kathi Cruce	1/14		
Dylan Esbaum	1/7	Rose Sandstrom	1/17		

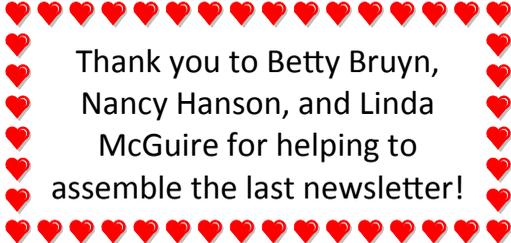
Thank you for your prayers for Mark and Kathy Algren upon the death of their son, Andrew. Several of you have asked about sending a card to them. Their address is:

Mark and Kathy Algren
3515 Canyon Ridge Drive
Columbia, MO 65202

- Chip, Janice, and Chris Algren

WELCA Circles
JANUARY

<u>Sarah</u>	<u>Naomi</u>
NO MEETING	NO MEETING



 Thank you to Betty Bruyn,
 Nancy Hanson, and Linda
 McGuire for helping to
 assemble the last newsletter!

MISSING: The following DVD, *"The Incredible Story of the Zam Zam, A Missionary Odyssey"* is missing. If you have checked this DVD out and have finished viewing it, please return it at your convenience. Thank you.

WORSHIP HELPERS – JANUARY 2019

Altar Care: TBD

Altar Flowers: 6 Carl Hamberg, 13 OPEN, 20 OPEN, 27 OPEN

Acolytes

Sanctuary: 6 & 13 Collin Nuckles, 20 & 27 Heide Gallagher

Communion Assistants

Chapel: 6 & 13 Ray Golden, 20 & 27 Gary Martin

Sanctuary: 6 & 13 Carl Hamberg, 20 & 27 Ray Bruyn

Lectors

Chapel: TBD

Sanctuary: 6 & 13 Dennis Mann, 20 & 27 Pam Best

Ushers

Sanctuary: 6 & 13 Dave Bost, 20 & 27 Ray & Betty Bruyn

*Please note that we are no longer having sign-up sheets,
and the yearbook will be out in January.*

Please Remember in Your Prayers



Ryder Armstrong, Shane Johnson, Kathy Bertelsen Keever,
Peggy Kulczewski, The Loving Family, Richard Reynolds, Bill Root,
Marjorie Smith, Marjorie Swanson, Ann Guidinger & family, Fran Bost,
Kevin Terpening, Dave Erlandson, Craig Jones, Chrystal Ragusca,
Connie Larimer, DeeDee Yez, Cecil Lovdahl

*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.*

First Lutheran Church Council Highlights

November 13, 2018

(approved December 11, 2018)

The meeting was called to order at 6:56 pm by President Ben Sanberg, followed with prayer by Pastor Jamie.

Present: Pastor Jamie, President Ben Sanberg, Ray Bruyn, Ellen Shrader, Diane Carlson, Rose Sandstrom, Steve Erlandson, Jim Johnson, Connie Larimer, special guest Warren Dobry

Motioned, Seconded, and Approved

- Minutes from October 9 Council Meeting (with revisions)
- Approved repairing hole in Parish House
- Treasurer's Report
- Approved Finance Committee to meet to review different budget options
- Approved submitted committee reports
- Approved Mission Identity Bible Study one night a month for 6 months

Message of Thanks

- Pam Best and 150th Anniversary Committee
- Janice Algren for 150th Anniversary Video
- Naomi Circle for Chili/Oyster Soup Supper

Pastor's Report

- Madrigals visiting on Sunday, November 25th; Vision & Purpose Offering
- Considering raising funds for spring half marathon
- Emergency needs (Open Table)

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds

- waiting for security proposals
- pulpit and parking lights replaced
- trimmed trees
- boiler replaced soon
- water fountain needs to be replaced soon
- clean up leaves
- snow removal lined up

- Vision & Purpose offering for Christmas decorations
- Christian Education & Youth
- all ages Sunday School on November 18th and December 16th
- Worship & Music
- one combined lay-led service at 10:30am on December 30th
 - need to fix one speaker

New Business

- Open Door starting November 27th in the Parish House

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm

Next meeting is December 11th at 7pm

Ellen Shrader, Council Secretary

(FULL MINUTES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

2019 Offering Envelopes

Numbered offering envelopes for 2019 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!

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S LEADERS

PASTOR

Jamie Gallagher

prjamie@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

Jan 6 - Sunday School for Children & Youth Resumes!

Jan 13 - Adult Sunday School @ 9:30am

Jan 20 - Adult Sunday School @ 9:30am

Jan 22 - All-Committee Bible Study @ 7pm

Jan 27 - Annual Meeting @ 9:30am

Our Church

The deadline for the next newsletter is **8AM** on **MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019**. 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!