



Our Church

(309) 734-2106 office@flcmonmouth.org

Volume CXII Issue 4

APRIL 2019

Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

Luke 24:21

Spring training is over. The next crack of the bat will be a regular season hit, leading to a base hit, or maybe a double play or maybe the winning run. It's a new season, and anything is possible. The favorites to win the World Series include your favorite team, maybe it's the Cubs or the Sox or the Cardinals or the Twins or the Tigers. Maybe you like the team because your father took you to your first game there, or your mother watched the games all summer long on WGN with you, or you like the color of their uniforms. It doesn't matter. They are your favorite. And every game is a good game to win.

Spring training is over. The stat sheet has been cleared, and the blank scorecard waits to be filled in. The balls are pristine, the bats have just the right amount of pine tar on them. The laces of the shoes are neatly tied and not yet stained from the freshly mown outfield grass. Ah baseball season is finally here. And some of us are a little more excited about it than others.

It is interesting that Spring brings us both a brand-new baseball season and a brand-new telling of that old story, "Jesus is Risen!" Perhaps you have heard this story before. Perhaps your favorite part is Peter running to the tomb, puzzled by the reports of the women. Maybe you remember your dad cracking open a colored egg on Easter morning and telling you this was an image of the empty tomb. Maybe you secretly watched as your mother hid the baskets around the living room and pretended to believe the Easter Bunny had magically dashed through the house while you were still sleeping.

Lent is finally over, and we return to singing alleluias! We rejoice at the sound of "Jesus is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!" We chomp at the bit to sit once more at the dining room table with the family favorite feast spread out like we will never eat again. And just like that empty score card waiting at the baseball diamond, Jesus has an empty score card waiting for us at his empty tomb. This score card does not tally up points, it does not keep track of errors or put-outs, doubles or double-plays. This scorecard has been washed clean by the blood of the Lamb, and it will stay clean. Nothing separates us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. Nothing ever will.

Spring Training is over, "Play Ball" is now cried out for real games. Lent is over, "Alleluia" is now sung for forgiveness that never ends.

Peace,
Pastor Jamie

Newsletter - Print or Email?

In part due to rising costs, we will switch our primary delivery method for our monthly newsletter from print copies to email copies. This switch will occur with the May newsletter. If you currently receive a print newsletter, and we have an email address on file for you, we will begin sending your newsletter by email.

If you already receive our newsletter by email, nothing will change for you.

The print copy of the newsletter will still be available. We recognize that not everyone has an email address and some do still wish to have the copy in hand. If you still wish to receive a print copy, please let Courtney in the church office know by April 22nd. (309) 734-2106 or office@flcmonmouth.org

If you have any further questions about our newsletter, please ask Pastor Jamie.

NEW SECURITY SYSTEM

Over the last year and a half, our church has held several discussions about installing a new security system to satisfy safety concerns for the preschool/day care. The property committee explored several options, choosing one which includes key cards, a camera, and door bells. After approval from the church council and from the annual congregational meeting, this system has been ordered and installed.

Beginning in April, the church education building will be locked during preschool/day care hours. What does this mean for you?

1. The back door off the parking lot to enter the church offices and for the preschool/day care will be locked during preschool/day care hours. To enter, there is a camera and button. Pushing the button will alert the church office and daycare office that someone is at the door; they will see you on the camera and be able to unlock the door for you. This door will also open with a key card. You may request to purchase a new key card to swipe next to the door which will unlock the door for you. If you have a key to the education building, that key will still let you in.
2. The front door off the courtyard to enter the church offices will be locked during preschool/day care hours. To enter this door, there will be a doorbell that will ring in the church office only. During our secretary's office hours, if you come to the courtyard door, she will be able to let you in. If you have a key to the church education building, that key will still work. You may also use the new key card at this door.
3. The new key cards cost \$6.50 for each card you request. The preschool/day care will manage cards for their families. Pastor Jamie will approve card requests for members of the church. Each card, day care or church member, will be entered into the computer and will be set with certain hours it will have access to the church education building.
4. During evening meetings and Sunday worship, the education building doors will be unlocked like normal.

5. The door between the education building and the sanctuary building will remain locked during preschool/day care hours. This door can be opened simply by requesting from the church office for it to be so for an event.

As we begin this new security system, there will be things that come up that we have not considered yet. Large group events, events that overlap regular preschool/day care hours, and so on. We will handle each case by case. But in general, our desire is to provide the safest environment for our preschool/day care. If you have any questions about the new security system, or if you would like to purchase an entry key card, please speak with Pastor Jamie.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday - April 14

Palm Sunday worship will include the procession of palms at both services. The 8:15 AM Chapel Worship will include a more traditional liturgy surrounding the reading of both the Palm Sunday triumphal entry story and the passion story.

The 10:30 AM Sanctuary Worship will include a dramatic reading, including multiple voices, of the passion story.

Maundy Thursday - April 18

We will have noon worship in our chapel that will be a traditional liturgy service. We will also have 7 PM worship in our sanctuary that will be an experiential worship service. Three stations will be set up for worshippers to have a hands-on experience with the passion story. The service will conclude with an abbreviated Tenebrae service, when we will read the seven last words of Christ on the cross and extinguish a candle after each word.

Easter Sunday - April 21

Join us as we have a breakfast pot-luck beginning at 9 AM. We will have one celebration worship service at 10:30 AM in our sanctuary. Join us as we celebrate the good news that Jesus is Risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

UPCOMING EVENTS

High School Organizational Choir Competition - April 12 & 13

Monmouth-Roseville High School is hosting this year's organizational music competition. High school bands and choirs from all over will come on Friday, April 12th and Saturday, April 13th to perform in competition to see who the best is. Our congregation will partner with the high school on Friday, April 12th, to host the choir competition. A more complete schedule will be available closer to the 12th. The event is open to the public, so feel free to come to our sanctuary on April 12th, and listen to some amazing high school choirs. The bands will be performing in the high school auditorium; the public is welcome to go to hear the bands as well.

All-Ages Sunday School - April 14

Join us on April 14th between worship services for an All-Ages Sunday School. We will have fun activities for the whole family to learn about Easter. This is not just for families with kids in Sunday School. This is for the entire congregation.

Come and grow in faith with your whole family at First Lutheran.

All-Committee Bible Study - Tuesday, April 23 @ 7 PM

The next All-Committee Bible Study will be held on Tuesday, April 23rd.

Join us as we continue to read God's word and hear God identify our mission identity for this time and place. Our committees are having great conversations so far. You, too, can be a part of this.

May Friendship Day - May 3 @ 9 AM

First Lutheran Church will host Church Women United's May Friendship Day on May 3rd at 9 AM for breakfast. Our ladies of the church will prepare and serve the breakfast. I would like to have some of our members attend.

- Betty Bruyn (First Lutheran's CWU Representative)

LAST OF LENT

Mid-Week Family Faith Experiences - Wednesdays @ 5:30 PM

Join us on the Wednesdays of Lent – April 3 & 10 – for a mid-week family faith experience. We will begin at 5:30 PM in the fellowship hall with a simple dinner hosted by one of the committees of the church. At 6:00 PM we will have a faith experience that will engage our hearts in new and refreshing ways.

Following a pattern of faith practices, we will share with one another things we are thankful for and things we regret; we will read a scripture story, sing a hymn, watch a brief video related to our Bible story, pray together and bless one another for our journey ahead. This simple practice will draw us closer not only to God but to one another as we live our faith with one another in engaging ways.

Our Bible stories and videos will focus on Judas Iscariot, and Pontius Pilate. Each of these characters also play a role in the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Join us this Lent as we learn more about who these characters were and why they are important in our Bible story.

Lenten Lay Breakfasts - Fridays @ 6:30 AM (Program @ 7:15 AM)

Friday mornings thru April 19th, our community is gathering at Strom Center (211 S A ST) at 6:30 AM to journey together for Lent. Beginning with a continental breakfast and fellowship, a short program is lead each week by lay members from Monmouth churches and is a great way to prepare our hearts for the weekends.

New Wedding Policy

The church council has updated the church wedding policy. If you would like a copy, please stop by the church office or ask Pastor Jamie for one.

MOTHER'S DAY – MISSIONARY FOR A DAY

Dollars doing double good are dollars well spent. That happens when we honor our mothers on Mother's Day with a gift that also supports our church's Missionary-For-A-Day fund. It is a gift for Mom that is sweeter than candy and longer lasting than flowers. It can also be a memorial to your loved one no longer with you.

You decide the amount of your gift. Let the office know of your intention by calling Courtney at (309) 734-2106 or emailing office@flcmonmouth.org before May 1st so your name and who you are honoring or remembering can be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, May 12th, Mother's Day.

Thank you.

- Rose Youngquist

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!

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.

Operation Round-Up Grants to Local Organizations

Macomb – McDonough Power Cooperative Operation Round-Up grants totaling \$5,850 were recently awarded to five area organizations.

First Lutheran Church of Monmouth was granted \$500 towards their Open Table mission. Open Table is a community-based model to engage local relational, intellectual and social capital to better the lives of low-income residents. Warren County is the initial launch target with the goal of introducing programs in adjoining counties. Open Table co-chair Doug Cruce states, “Developing healthy relationships that foster mutual respect, understanding and compassion in communities is a priority of the Open Table program. When table members build these relationships with those they serve, lives are transformed, and the cycle of poverty has a greater chance of being overcome.” The next step in launching the program is training Table members that will serve the community.



Other grants awarded include **Lincoln School** in Macomb, which received \$500 for their 1st Annual Adopt a Classroom Color Run, to be held April 27. Proceeds from the color run will benefit almost 600 students. **Macomb Jr. High School** was granted \$2,500 towards the cost of transporting 8th grade students to the Illinois Holocaust Museum. The trip has a lasting impact on many of the students who have attended, and is an important part of the language arts/reading and social studies curriculum at MJHS. **Western Illinois Regional Council - Community Action Agency** will benefit from a \$1,000 grant to their food pantry. The food pantry provides nutrition assistance to income-eligible families in the McDonough County area. Finally, **Wesley Village** will receive up to \$1,350 towards the purchase of a refrigerator for their Pursuit of Home Project. The Memory Care Unit and Short-Term Rehabilitation Households will benefit from this grant.

The Operation Round-Up program is funded by members of McDonough Power Cooperative who have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar. The extra pennies are used to support community betterment projects. Since the initial round of funding in January 2016, the program has donated \$78,212 to local organizations. We encourage schools and other non-profit organizations to apply for funding of special projects. The next deadline to apply for an Operation Round-Up grant is April 1, 2019. For more details, visit www.mcdonoughpower.com.

GO ON AN ADVENTURE TODAY!

KEEP READING.....It's one of the most marvelous adventures that anyone can have.
- Lloyd Alexander

New additions to our church library....

FICTION

Though Waters Roar by Lynn Austin is about Harriet Sherwood, a young woman while fighting for social justice was arrested. She never thought this would happen to her. Unexpectedly the arresting officer was her childhood enemy and was the school bully. While in jail she has plenty of time to think about past generations of women who preceded her. Through it all she discovers their deep faith in the God of justice and righteousness and brings Harriet to discover her own goals and motives in pursuing them. (quote from back cover)

DEVOTION

Grandma's Voice by Pearl Rainwater is a collection of 40 devotions with titles like "Kool-Aid and Raisins" and "Only God Can Grow a Tree." Rainwater recounts true stories that will make you notice God's hand in his creation and the power of his love in your life. (quote from back cover)

Believing In God by Miles Lowell Yates (edited and revised by The Right Reverend Brother John Charles, SSF). This book has suggestions for prayers and meditations on the Christian faith and life for each day in Lent. (quote from title page)

BIBLE STUDY

Paul's Letters for the Average Reader by Luther S. Cross is a very easy shortened text for devotional reading.

THANK YOU TO Nancy Hanson and other members who donated these books to our church library. Your continued interest in the library is appreciated.



THANK YOU!



It was so nice of the Church Council to host the coffee on Sunday, March 24th, to acknowledge my retirement from the church library. I want to take this opportunity to thank them as well as everyone who attended, for all your kind words, cards and gifts. Also, a big thank you to those who furnished the refreshments, worked in the kitchen and decorated the tables. I am so blessed to have friends like you.

If you are interested in taking on the responsibility of the church library, please let Pastor Jamie know.



Anna Lovdahl

WELCA Circles

APRIL

Sarah

Ila Roseberry

@ Courtyard Estates

Naomi

Mary Jane Olson

@ CHURCH

Please Remember in Your Prayers



Kathy Bertelsen Keever, Peggy Kulczewski, Richard Reynolds, Bill Root, Marjorie Smith, Marjorie Swanson, Kevin Terpening, Dave Erlandson, Phil Larson, Bev Coulter, Graham Johnson, Max & Aileen Steele, Caity Jones, Adam Davis, Kyle Brooks, Judy Wagy, Bob Kerschke

If you have someone you would like included on the prayer list, please contact the church office. Let Courtney know whom you would like included, for how long, and if we can include their name on our website.

WORSHIP HELPERS – APRIL 2019

Altar Care: Julie Blaesing

Altar Flowers: 7 David & Dean Sandstrom, 14 OPEN, 21 OPEN, 28 OPEN

Acolytes

Sanctuary: 7 Maddie Blaesing, 14 & 28 Nate Gallagher, 21 Emma Nuckles

Communion Assistants

Chapel: 7 Gary Martin, 14 & 28 Cecil Lovdahl

Sanctuary: 7 Kurt Volz, 14 & 28 Diane Carlson, 21 Steve Erlandson

Lectors

Chapel: 7 Elaine Sander, 14 Kay Lovdahl, 28 Rob Ravel

Sanctuary: 7 Eloise Swisher, 14 & 28 Pam Best, 21 Wendy Anderson

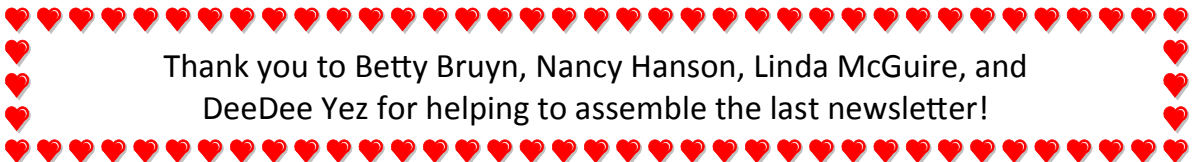
Ushers

Sanctuary: 7 Mike & Susie Jurgens,
14 & 28 Linda McGuire & Diane Carlson,
21 Steve & Karen Erlandson, Wendy Anderson, Paula Nuckles

Visual Aid Assistants

Sanctuary: 7 Collin Nuckles, 14 & 28 Heide Gallagher, 21 Collin Nuckles

*Please note that we are no longer having sign-up sheets.
May thru December Worship Helpers are listed in the Yearbook.*



First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2019

(approved March 12, 2019)

The meeting was called to order at 5:55pm by Vice President Raymond Bruyn, followed with prayer by Pastor Jamie.

Present: Pastor Jamie, Ray Bruyn, Diane Carlson, Rose Sandstrom, Connie Larimer, Dave Bost, Steve Erlandson

Absent: Ben Sanberg, Ellen Shrader, Jim Johnson

Motioned, Seconded, and Approved

- Minutes from January 8th Council Meeting
- Minutes from January 27th Congregational Meeting w/one correction
- Treasurer's Report
- All committee reports

Congregational Concerns

- Good reports on the communion classes for youth & adults. Well attended.
- Communion every Sunday is good.

New Business

- Some funding from United Way for security for the Daycare Center

Pastor's Report

- Fellowship time with a Potluck after combined service
- Coffee Hour between services
- Recognition gathering for Anna Lovdahl's service as Church Librarian
- Wedding guidelines to be studied & tabled until next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is March 12th at 6pm

Connie Larimer, Substitute Council Secretary

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Kathy Fillman	4/2/1971	48 years
Ron & Deb Manuel	4/28/1985	34 years
Todd & Kris Champion	4/25/1987	32 years

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Gary Utter	4/1	Elise Blaesing	4/13	Lindsey Martin	4/23
Marlys Dobry	4/4	Nate Gallagher	4/16	Rob Ravel	4/23
Deb Manuel	4/5	Chip Algren	4/18	Dave Erlandson	4/25
April Icenogle	4/6	Diane Carlson	4/20	Sharon Edwin	4/28
Fred Burgland	4/7	Warren Dobry	4/20		
Trace Gallagher	4/10	Rachael Nuckles	4/20		

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
116 S B ST
MONMOUTH, IL 61462



DATES TO REMEMBER

Apr 14 - All-Ages Sunday School @ 9:30 AM

Apr 18 - Maundy Thursday
- Chapel Worship @ Noon
- Sanctuary Worship @ 7 PM

Apr 21 - Easter Breakfast @ 9 AM
Easter Worship @ 10:30 AM

Apr 23 - All-Committee Bible Study @ 7 PM

Our Church

The deadline for the next newsletter is **NOON** on **MONDAY, APRIL 22, 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!