



Our Church

(309) 734-2106 office@flcmonmouth.org

Volume CXIII Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2020

***When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.***

Matthew 5:1

We can all name one or two important mountains in the world. Whether it is the tallest in the world, Mount Everest; or the tallest in North America, Mount McKinley; or whether it is scenic mountains like the Matterhorn in Switzerland or Space Mountain at Disney World (okay, one of those mountains may not actually be a real mountain and one of those might have inspired yet another classic Disney ride); mountains capture our imagination. Famed climbers seek the thrill of scaling to the top; notorious tragedies serve as reminders of their immense power as well as drive the next thrill seeker to overcome.

Mountains hold a similar spirit in scripture. Jesus ascends a mountain to be transfigured into heavenly glory, and his conversation with Moses and Elijah is witnessed by three lucky disciples. Moses ascends a mountain, and the divine mystery that is Yahweh speaks from a cloud and etches holy law into stone. Elijah ascends a mountain during his escape from an evil queen and there he captures a glimpse of God's presence, not in wind or flame or shaking earth, but in the sheer silence.

For the longest recorded collection of Jesus' sayings, known as the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus begins by climbing up a mountain. A crowd has followed him, hoping to hear him preach good news about what God is doing in the world today. With his disciples by his side, Jesus began to teach, offering up such nuggets of wisdom from the simple, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," to the complex, "You have heard it said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Throughout the month of February, we will climb up the mountain with Jesus to hear portions of his sermon. With these words, our imagination will be let loose as we

conjure up visions of a utopic kingdom that Jesus paints with these masterful statements. We will discover the dangerous pitfalls of our own humanity that seeks to bring us down to our doom, and we will be inspired to strive by faith in an ever-uphill climb toward the kingdom of heaven.

Its peak is not out of reach. It has been brought down to us by our Lord Jesus. And it is our mountain to climb this month. Join us in worship throughout February and climb up the mountain of the Lord with today's disciples.

Peace,
Pastor Jamie

February 2nd – *First Sunday* Sunday School

Join us between services on Sunday, February 2nd, for our First Sunday of the month Sunday School for all ages. This month's topic: "Do you want to climb a mountain?"

Let's look at some of the famous mountains of the Bible and hear how the stories that happened on those mountains become foundations to our faith today.

No climbing gear is necessary. Everyone is invited. Let's grow in faith together.

February 26th – Ash Wednesday

Join us Wednesday, February 26th for Ash Wednesday services.

We will have worship at noon and 7pm, both in the Chapel this year.

Start Lent with the powerful ritual of ashes, remembering our human brokenness that always ends in death while being restored in the promise of Christ's resurrection which always ends in new life.

March 1st – *First Sunday* Sunday School

Join us March 1st for our First Sunday - Sunday School for all ages between worship services. We will have a lesson that covers themes of Lent. Why Ashes? Why Palm Branches? Why Soup and Meat-Free Fridays? So many questions for just 40 days of the year. Let's grow in faith together as we learn all about Lent.

FEBRUARY VISION & PURPOSE

Our monthly Vision and Purpose giving for February will support the Jamieson Center's Weekend Meals program. Here is the article posted on the Jamieson Center website about this program:

"Weekend Meals began in 2018. Shelf-stable meals are sent home on Fridays with students in the Monmouth-Roseville school district who don't have enough food in their homes. Students can be parent or staff referred. Each bag contains whole grain cereals, shelf-stable milk, 100% juice, whole grain crackers, cheese or peanut butter and jelly, and a pasta/meat dish. The menus rotate for variety. Weekend Meals are possible in collaboration with River Bend Food Bank, Twomey Foundation, Warren County United Way, and Monmouth Rotary Club. \$180 feeds a child for the entire school year."

On Sunday, February 23rd, we will collect our Vision and Purpose offering in baskets at the back of the chapel and the sanctuary. It will be a powerful witness to our faith if we could provide enough to feed two children throughout the entire school year.

For more information on the programs of Jamieson Center, go to www.jamiesoncommunitycenter.org. Click the tab "donate" to learn other ways to support the vital ministries Jamieson provides.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Bradley Anderson, Clarice Anderson, Josie Blake, Bob & Pam, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Cassie Jern & Family, Graham Johnson, Nathan Linman, Ila Roseberry, Tucker Smith, Marjorie Swanson, Norman Worthington, Joy Johnson

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.





MAIL RECEIVED



Dear First Lutheran,

Thank you for the card + cash gift for my ordination. We've never met, and our only connection is your pastor, ~~but~~ which makes your generosity all the more special.

Pr. Janice was the first person to suggest to me that I go to Seminary, but more importantly, he was the pastor that showed me church could be a welcoming place, and taught that church is the body of Christ, not a building. You've got a great one!

Blessings,
(The Rev.) ~~Kate~~ Drefke

Thank you!

Once again the congregation stepped up and helped our little ones enjoy the spirit of Christmas! Our center received many nice toys from your participation in our annual "Toy Wreath" event.

There were basketballs and playground balls, playdough and kinetic sand, Matchbox and Hotwheels cars, a cash register, a Color Doodle, sidewalk chalk, as well as Legos and Lincoln Logs. Some of the new games include Uno, Aggravation, Ants in the Pants, and Guess Who. Art supplies are always in demand and we acquired a quite nice variety of things such as drawing paper, markers, dry erase markers, index cards, glue sticks, and "scratchy scratch paper". A few gift cards and some cash were also given. Those will be used to buy something for the children, possibly a net to play games like volleyball, badminton, or pickleball. We are so fortunate to be blessed with the kind and caring individuals of this church. Thank you so much for all that you do.

- Lutheran Pre-School and Day Care Center

Volunteer Needed to lead Lenten Lay Breakfast on March 6th

The Lenten Lay Breakfasts are held at Strom Center on Fridays during Lent. Strom provides doughnuts, toast, coffee, and juice. Each week the hosting church provides greeters, servers, and lay people to lead worship/devotions. This year, First Lutheran is scheduled to host the breakfast on March 6th. If you're interested in a leadership role in the program this year, please tell Pastor Jamie.

BOOK LOVER'S NOTE! The church still has the volunteer position of librarian open. IF YOU:

- * love books
- * like the feel of a book in your hands when reading
- * feel books take you places you've never been

THEN please consider volunteering to serve as our church librarian.

CONTACT the church office if interested.



...but those who wait for the Lord
shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31 NRSV

WORSHIP HELPERS – FEBRUARY 2020

Altar Care: OPEN

Altar Flowers: 2 Glenna Martin, 9 OPEN, 16 Don Fillman, 23 Jamie Reynolds

Acolytes

Sanctuary: 2 OPEN, 9 OPEN, 16 OPEN, 23 OPEN

Communion Assistants

Chapel: 2 OPEN, 9 & 16 Gary Martin, 23 OPEN

Sanctuary: 2 & 9 Mark Shrader, 16 OPEN, 23 OPEN

Lectors

Chapel: 2 OPEN, 9 OPEN, 16 OPEN, 23 OPEN

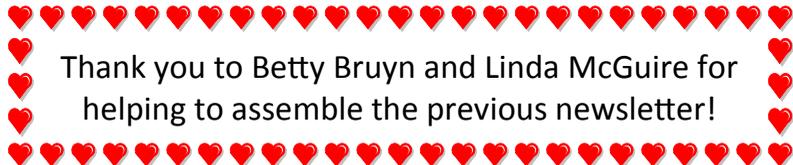
Sanctuary: 2 & 9 Ellen Shrader, 16 OPEN, 23 OPEN

Ushers

Sanctuary: 2 & 9 Bren Tooley & OPEN, 16 OPEN,
23 Julie and Elise Blaesing

Visual Aid Assistants

Sanctuary: 2 OPEN, 9 OPEN, 16 OPEN, 23 Maddie Blaesing



First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2019

(approved January 14, 2020)

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by Rose Sandstrom, followed with prayer by Pastor Jamie.

Present: Pastor Jamie, Rose Sandstrom, Ellen Shrader, Steve Erlandson, Diane Carlson, Linda McGuire, Jim Johnson, Warren Dobry

Absent: Ray Bruyn, Evelyn Volz

Motioned, Seconded, and Unanimously Approved

- Minutes from November 12th meeting
- Treasurer's report
- Raise Chris Algren's pay rate to minimum wage of \$10/hour starting January 1, 2020
- Up to \$5,000 from Estate Fund for new sound system
- Submitted committee reports
 - a. Building & Grounds (Steve Erlandson)
 - b. Lutheran Day Care (Diane Carlson)
- Transfer Root Estate Gift to Estate Fund #2 account
- Liquidate Root Estate Gift Mutual Funds and hold proceeds in a Money Market Account
- End-of-year bonuses

Messages of Thanks

- All who helped with Christmas decorations both inside and outside of the church
- Dee Dee Yez for Coffee Fellowship on December 8th
- All who helped with Thanksgiving Dessert Fellowship Event on November 24th
- All who helped with funeral meals and cookies
- MRHS Madrigals

New Business

- Initial meeting with Methodist Church on January 8th at 7pm at First Lutheran Church
- Vision & Purpose Offering for January - Jamieson Center
- Membership Directory will be updated in June
- Church Council thank yous to be read monthly

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm

Next meeting is January 14th at 6:30pm

Ellen Shrader, Secretary

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Kenny and Nancy Reynolds 2/22/1975 45 years

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Carsyn Miller	2/2	Keirstyn Johnson	2/17	Heidi Niemann	2/27
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		



WELCA Circles
FEBRUARY

<u>Sarah</u> <i>Rose Youngquist</i>	<u>Naomi</u> <i>Becky Terpening</i> @ CHURCH
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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S LEADERS

PASTOR

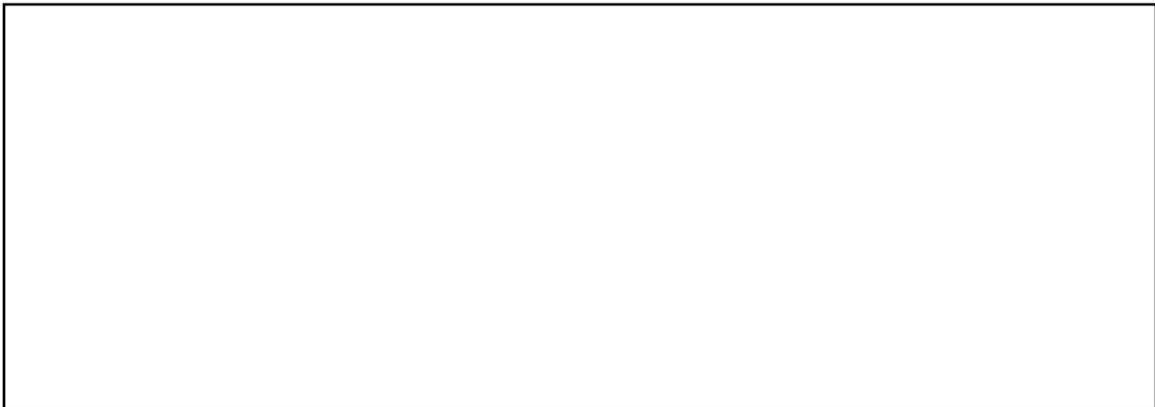
Jamie Gallagher
prjamie@flcmonmouth.org
 (630) 200-3550

OFFICERS

President: Rose Sandstrom	Vice President: Ray Bruyn
Treasurer: Gary Sanberg	Secretary: Ellen Shrader

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS (2019-2020)

Diane Carlson, Warren Dobry, Steve Erlandson,
 Jim Johnson, Linda McGuire, Evelyn Volz



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
116 S B ST
MONMOUTH, IL 61462



DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb 2 - Sunday School @ 9:15 AM

Feb 26 - Ash Wednesday services in Chapel
@ Noon & 7:00 PM

Mar 1 - Sunday School @ 9:15 AM

Our Church

The deadline for the next newsletter is **1 PM** on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020**. 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!