



# Our Church

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Volume CXIII Issue 1

JANUARY 2020

**<sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”**

**<sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him.**

*Matthew 4:19-20*

With the newest Star Wars movie out, and it setting its box-office records and completing the saga of the Skywalker family from a galaxy far, far away, I can't help but remember a line from the very first Star Wars movie released, the one now called Episode 4, A New Hope. In that movie, our hero Luke is rescued in the desert by the man who would become his mentor. And while they are first meeting, Obi-Wan offers a gift to Luke, and says:

“I have something here for you. Your father wanted you to have this when you were old enough, but your uncle wouldn't allow it. He feared you might follow old Obi-Wan on some [dang] fool idealistic crusade like your father did.”

At this moment, in the Star Wars saga, Luke has no intention of following Obi-Wan anywhere, he realizes he has to get home to his Uncle and Aunt, or else he will be in trouble. When he does return home, he discovers they have been killed by the Empire, and Luke's future is sealed. He will follow Obi-Wan and become his disciple.

On the big screen, it takes some powerful storytelling, and George Lucas showing his family a grand picture of what life on this remote planet was like, and how circumstances force Luke into choosing to follow Obi-Wan.

In the Gospel of Matthew, our author simply says, “Jesus said, ‘follow me’ and they did.’ End of story. No big picture. We don't see any conflict between these fishermen and the empire around them. There is no backstory to Simon and Andrew, James and John. There is no parental warning “Don't follow that rabbi, he's a fool.” There is no incursion of the Roman Empire storming into Capernaum, giving rising tension to whether these four men will choose to follow the new hero, or stay loyal to the ways of the Empire to avoid being the next victim.

There is simply a calling. There is simply a response. And whatever the backstory is for the four men named in Matthew chapter 4, it is left for us to fill it in. It is up to us to ask the right question, too. We don't need to ask why these 4 men followed Jesus. We need to ask why do we follow Jesus? Is Jesus just another foolish trend, that is maybe less foolish than any other passing fancy we could spend our time following? Or is Jesus really a Rabbi, a teacher, who will show us the way to live our life, who will teach us to fish for people?

Why do you follow Jesus? That is the question this story begs us to ask. Maybe once upon a time it was because our parents brought us to Jesus, our parents didn't discourage us from following Jesus, our parents taught us the ways of faith. But maybe it is more than that. In this season of Epiphany, the question of discipleship and why we follow Jesus will be raised by our scripture readings. And we may wonder why Simon, Andrew, James and John as well as the other 8 of the original 12 male disciples followed Jesus. But we know why we do. Let your story be the bait, placed on the end of the line that you cast out as you fish for people.

Peace,  
Pastor Jamie

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### **The Yearbook will be published in June**

The 2020-21 yearbook and church directory will be published in June, after the May congregational meeting and election of new council officers and committee members. This will help ensure the information printed will be accurate for the entire following 12 months.

Please take a moment to check the 2019 member directory to be sure all personal information for you and your family members is correct.  
Please send any corrections to the church office.

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## **HAPPENING IN JANUARY**

### **All Ages Sunday School – January 5<sup>th</sup> @ 9:15 AM**

Join us to talk about the story of Jesus as a pre-teenager, hanging out at the Temple, and not returning home with his family, causing his parents great grief and anxiety. Kind of like most pre-teenagers today. Join us as we sympathize with Mary and Joseph, and as we learn what it means to hang out in the Temple.

### **Annual Congregational Meeting – January 26<sup>th</sup> @ 9:15 AM**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> between services. Please plan on attending this meeting as we lift up our ministries from the previous year and make plans for the coming year.

### **Watch for new Weekly Time/Talent in our worship bulletins**

We will begin using a new bulletin insert to help bring awareness to the different activities happening in the life of our congregation. Based on an old “Time and Talent” sheet concept, this insert will name worship assistant roles and other activities needing help in the upcoming month.

The insert will name the person coordinating each activity. You are invited to use this form to check off activities you want to help volunteer for and place into the offering plate so the church office gets it, or to use this as information so you can contact the coordinator to ask any questions you may have.

The insert is a concept that may be tweaked over the next couple of months, to create the most useful insert that it can be. Any feedback on this insert is welcome. Please contact Pastor Jamie, so all feedback may be used in that tweaking process.

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## **Season of Creation Retreat**

Pastor Jamie will be out of the office from the evening of Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> to attend a synod retreat at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL. During this retreat, Pastor Jamie will be one of 16 invited pastors from across the synod gathered to develop a worship resource titled “A Season of Creation”, based on stewardship of the environment. The worship resources developed during this week will eventually be used here in our own worship services as well as being made available for our whole synod. While Pastor Jamie is out of the office, Pastor Katie Gallagher (630-200-3288) will be available for emergency pastoral care. Pastor Jamie may be reached by text or email for non-emergency questions and information.

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## **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

The \$50,000 Capital Campaign approved by the Congregation in August is at 98%. If you haven't pledged please do so to help reach the goal. Extra cards are available in the office. This campaign will make it possible to repair the church front doors, replace the north front steps and do additional tuck pointing.

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## **SEWING CIRCLE**

THANK YOU to the congregation for your financial support totaling \$109 during the raffle of our Christmas Quilt. Margaret Hackspacher was the lucky winner.

Quilts made by the Sewing Circle can end up all over the world as Lutheran World Relief aid in refugee camps. They are also distributed here in the US after natural disasters displace people from their homes.

Your help in providing this comfort to people so very much in need is appreciated. It is also a message of God's love from First Lutheran Church here in Monmouth.



## NOVEMBER VISION & PURPOSE

With the help of Carol McCrery at Strom Center, I was able to target two individuals and one couple to help. The above picture is of the items each person received (except the big tree). Yes, this is how much EACH got!

The couple received twice the amount of fresh fruit and two place mats and coffee cups. I also included our January devotion book and an invitation to our Christmas Eve service. Thanks to Rose Sandstrom for giving me some baked goods to include with mine. I really appreciate every dollar given to help me do this for the struggling seniors. Thanks!

*- Evelyn Volz*

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## JANUARY VISION & PURPOSE

Our January Vision & Purpose collection is for Jamieson Community Center.

For anyone not familiar with this agency, they provide social services to Warren County and area residents of all ages. Free diapers, school supplies, help with water bills and prescription drug costs, and multiple food security programs...they do a lot for the Monmouth area, both by themselves and in coordination with other local agencies.

# JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Delmar & Judy Champion	1/18/1959	61 years
Bren & Mike Tooley	1/5/1991	29 years



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

## WELCA Circles

### JANUARY

Sarah

NO MEETING

Naomi

NO MEETING

## Please Remember in Your Prayers

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



*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 – JANUARY 2020

Altar Care: Diane Carlson

Altar Flowers: 5 OPEN, 12 OPEN, 19 OPEN, 26 OPEN

### Acolytes

Sanctuary: 5 & 12 Collin Nuckles, 19 & 26 Heide Gallagher

### Communion Assistants

Chapel: 5 & 12 Ray Golden, 19 & 26 Gary Martin

Sanctuary: 5 & 12 Carl Hamberg, 19 & 26 Ray Bruyn

### Lectors

Chapel: 5 & 19 Heide Gallagher, 12 Kay Lovdahl, 26 Rob Ravel

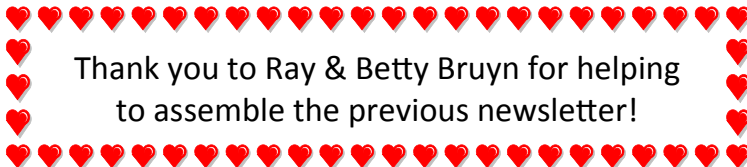
Sanctuary: 5 & 12 Dennis Mann, 19 & 26 Rose Youngquist

### Ushers

Sanctuary: 5 & 12 Dave Bost & Steve Erlandson,  
19 & 26 Ray & Betty Bruyn

### Visual Aid Assistants

Sanctuary: 5 & 12 Nate Gallagher, 19 & 26 Trace Gallagher



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## First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes November 12, 2019

*(Approved December 10, 2019)*

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by Rose Sandstrom, followed with prayer by Pastor Jamie.

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

### Motioned, Seconded, and Approved

- Approved to install new sound system for \$14,324 (1 nay)
- Unanimously approved minutes from October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Unanimously approved treasurer's report
- Unanimously approved submitted committee reports
  - a. Building & Grounds (Steve Erlandson)
  - b. Christian Education & Youth (Ellen Shrader)
  - c. Endowment Fund (Warren Dobry)
  - d. Financial/Stewardship (Linda McGuire)
  - e. Lutheran Day Care (Diane Carlson)
  - f. Memorial Fund (Rose Sandstrom)
  - g. Personnel (Ray Bruyn)
  - h. Worship & Music (Jim Johnson)
- Unanimously approved request to Finance Committee to prepare 2020 budget for December meeting
- Unanimously approved outdoor Christmas lights and nativity scene (from Emerging Ministries account)
- Unanimously approved annual meeting date for January 26, 2020

### Messages of Thanks

- Pastor Jamie and Jim Johnson for Halloween event
- Chip Algren for fixing candles
- Naomi Circle for Chili & Oyster Supper
- Caring Hearts Committee for funeral luncheon



- All who assisted Reverend Karen Norman Rees on November 10<sup>th</sup> (especially Blaesing family and Jim Johnson)
- Bren Tooley for coordinating guest speakers for Immigration and Faith Study

New Business

- Committee annual reports need to be submitted to Courtney by December 16<sup>th</sup>
- First Lutheran Church Council and First United Methodist Council to meet in January to discuss collaboration during construction

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Next meeting is December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

Ellen Shrader, Secretary

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S LEADERS**

PASTOR

Jamie Gallagher

[prjamie@flcmonmouth.org](mailto: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

**Jan 5** - All Ages Sunday School @ 9:15 AM

**Jan 26** - Annual Congregational Meeting  
@ 9:15 AM

**Jan 27 to Jan 31** - Pastor out of town

## Our Church

The deadline for the next newsletter is **1 PM on MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 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!