



# Our Church

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***Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.***

*Hebrews 12:1-2*

I have never fancied myself to be a runner. In fact, for as long as I can remember, I have hated, to use a strong word, running. About nine years ago, my daughter was just getting into running and with the encouragement of her mother she ran a 5K together with her mother. Heide then turned to me and asked if I would run a 5K with her. She tried desperately to train me. I humored her and tried for a week. It was a miserable week that ended with me pleading with my then 8-year-old daughter to let me not do that with her. I remember saying to her, "I'll walk 10 miles with you; I'll ride my bike 20 miles with you, please don't ask me to run 3 miles with you." She relented. But she also never gave up on her dream of running with me someday.

I'm not sure why last fall I made a bet with my now 16-year-old daughter to run a half marathon if she ran fast enough at a cross country meet. But I made that bet. And, she did her part running with a time that far surpassed an improved time that was anticipated for her that day. And now I am running. I ran my first official 5K last Thanksgiving. I ran that race with my daughter who finally gets to serve as my running coach. And now we are both preparing for our first half-marathon later in June in Muskegon, Michigan.

I have found running is not as painful as I thought it would be, now that I am training properly for it. I have found there are moments when running is kind of enjoyable. It clears the mind and on the long flat stretches it isn't nearly as painful. I am not fond of the hills, but you can only run where the road leads, so sometimes I have to run hills. And I have found that running with others, even if we are at different paces, is still enjoyable. I wasn't even grumbling as much as I thought I would as I went on my first 9-mile run out along Broadway, out east of town, past United High School, and to its dead end and back again toward town.

Was I wrong about running all these years? Did something inside me suddenly change that today I can appreciate running differently than I could years ago? Well, perhaps something has changed. Perhaps I have found a new appreciation for running, perhaps I have learned I can persevere through running and not be miserable.

The author of Hebrews encourages us to run the race with perseverance. And he is not talking about a 5K or a half-marathon. He is using the metaphor to describe the life of faith. Faith can be like running, it can be hard work, it can have easy stretches, it can have hills and valleys, it is always easier with others, even if we are at different places in our faith journey.

At First Lutheran, we are running with perseverance. 151 years of running so far and we have more hills and valleys and flat stretches ahead of us. Sometimes all this running gets tiring. Sometimes all the running builds us up and comforts us, it even clears our heads. Sometimes we need to pull into that water break station and splash water over us and renew ourselves to get back out on the course. Sometimes we want to tell our coach she is crazy for asking us to do certain exercises before or after the run. (Poor Heide, has to put up with me, and I am not easily coached.) But in the end, we still follow what the coach says, we still exercise and stretch and prepare to keep on running.

This summer begins a bit of a flat stretch of the course for our church – most of our regular school year programming is done; we have a coffee hour, a potluck, and a big fun festival here in June, all the water break places where we pull in for refreshment and prepare ourselves for what is next. The race is not over, it is not on hiatus, it is just run a little differently over the summer months. But we are not alone. We are in this together. Join us, as we continue to run together the race that is set before us, with the faith and perseverance that Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, as our coach, encouraging us every step of the way.

Peace,  
Pastor Jamie

PS: Wendy Anderson also has a big run coming up. Check out the information she shares in our bulletins and later in this newsletter, and help her as she raises support for St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis, TN.

## WHERE IS PASTOR JAMIE?

June and July are busy months, in a very different way from the normalcy of the school year and daily or nightly programs. So, there may be days you don't find Pastor Jamie in his office. Here are a few times he will be out.

June 6-7, Pastor is traveling with his family to watch his daughter perform the national anthem with the high school madrigals at a St. Louis Cardinals game.

June 11-13, Pastor will be working with the Northern Illinois Synod Cycle to Synod event, see more information on that elsewhere in this newsletter. Pastor will be back from this event in time to attend the Strawberry Festival on June 13.

June 14-15, Pastor will be attending the Synod Assembly.

June 20-27, Pastor will be on family vacation. This vacation includes his half-marathon run, a distance of 13.1 miles, which Pastor expects to run in 2 hours and 45 minutes or less. Cheer Pastor on before he leaves and ask about his time when he comes back.

July 4-6, Pastor will be attending the ordination of a friend.

July 15 - 22, Pastor will be on a family vacation

If you normally like to drop in to visit Pastor Jamie in his office, it is highly recommended you call first, as the times he is "in the office" he may be out doing home visits. Additional changes to Pastor's schedule will be listed in the weekly bulletins or upcoming newsletters.

**WANTED!** Sarah Circle will be using an article from the March 2019 "Living Lutheran" magazine. If you have a copy of the magazine which you no longer need, please consider giving it to Sarah Circle. You may leave it in the church office. Thank you.

## CYCLE TO SYNOD

The Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries (RALM) are co-sponsoring “Cycle to Synod,” a three-day bicycle ride across Illinois to raise funds and awareness for the ELCA World Hunger Ministry. “Cycle to Synod” will begin at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Princeton, on Tuesday, June 11 at 10:00 AM with a kick-off Blessing and Prayer sponsored by the members of St. Matthews Lutheran Church. Approximately ten bicycle enthusiasts will undertake the three-day ride which will cover over 100 miles. On Friday, June 14, the cyclists will enter the Northern Illinois Synod Annual Assembly at Centennial Hall on the campus of Augustana Lutheran College in Rock Island to celebrate their ride and to announce the funds raised along the journey.

ELCA World Hunger has partners and companions in the United States and over 60 countries with ministries addressing: Water and Sanitation; Education and Training; Agriculture and Nutrition; Income and Savings; Health; Peace, Justice and Human Rights; Advocacy and Community Organizing. In 2017, ELCA World Hunger received over \$21.3 million in support of these ministries.

“Cycle to Synod” can be followed on social media using “#CycleToSynod”. The ride will make overnight stops at Zion Lutheran Church, Kewanee; First Lutheran Church, Geneseo; and First Lutheran Church, Rock Island. The ride will make lunch stops at the Hennepin Canal State Park sponsored by First Lutheran Church, Prophetstown; Cambridge Lutheran Church, Cambridge; and Augustana Lutheran Church, Andover. At each of these stops, information regarding ELCA World Hunger will be shared through interactive Bible studies and promotional materials.

If you would like to make a donation to support ELCA World Hunger a check written to the Northern Illinois Synod, with “Cycle to Synod” written on the memo line may be given to Pastor Jamie ahead of when he leaves for the event.

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## **SECOND SERVICE TIME CHANGE**

### **Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> to ...?**

At its May meeting, the Church Council approved changing the second service time to 10 AM beginning June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. The Church Council also approved not returning to 10:30 AM in the fall. The second worship time will remain 10 AM going forward.

8:15 AM worship will remain at 8:15 AM.

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## **COMMUNITY CARE DAYS**

### **Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Come be a part of caring for your neighbors in Warren County!

No experience or training necessary - though Community Care Days focuses on home repair and maintenance, there is plenty of yardwork and painting to do. (If you do have skills with things like woodworking, even better!) All volunteers are invited to a planning meeting on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in Security Savings Banks' Community Room. Work group leaders are always needed.

If you can't commit to two days, no fear! Come for only one workday, or even just an afternoon. Each day the volunteers will meet at 8 AM, then be sent off to various projects. Where is the meeting place? Keep an eye on the bulletins, or call Steve Erlandson at (309) 236-7550 as the days get nearer.

And if you're only available afternoons, call Steve when you're free. You never know where extra hands might be needed unless you ask!



### Church Family,

It's that time of year again! I'll once again be running for the kids of St. Jude. This will be my third year running the Memphis to Peoria run. We leave for Memphis on July 30<sup>th</sup> to start the run back to Peoria on July 31<sup>st</sup>. We will run during the days and through the night and will live out of an RV for 5 days arriving back in Peoria on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In order to run, I need to raise a minimum of \$3,000, and that is where I'm asking for your help. Any donation is appreciated. You can made checks out to either St. Jude or First Lutheran Church with St. Jude noted in the memo. You can mail donations to me at 450 S. Hall St., Roseville, IL 61473 or drop them by the office or in the offering plate.

This is an opportunity I look forward to every year, and I greatly appreciate all the support you've provided in the past and will continue to provide me this year. Thank you for considering donating to this amazing cause. St. Jude kids and their families truly are the real heroes here.

- Wendy Anderson



Wendy Anderson & Family

# ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

## When?

Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>  
5pm - 7pm

## Where?

First Lutheran Church  
116 S B St - Monmouth, IL

## What?

BBQ Sandwiches, Chips, Drinks,  
Strawberries, Ice Cream, Cake!

## What ELSE?

Live Music!  
The Monmouth Municipal Band  
AND  
First Lutheran's Worship Band

*Held in the basement Fellowship Hall -  
air-conditioned and handicap-accessible*

*Concerts outside at 6:15pm & 7pm,  
weather permitting*

*Suggested donation is \$6.50 for adults and  
\$4.00 for children 10 and under. To buy  
tickets, or help sell them, talk to DeeDee Yez.*

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## JUNE SOCIAL EVENTS

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Coffee Hour - June 16<sup>th</sup>**

All are welcome between services (at 9:15am) for a time of refreshment and community. Invite your neighbors to join us too!

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Meal - June 30<sup>th</sup>**

In the tradition of March's 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck Luncheon, there will be a meal after the second service on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of June. Details are still being decided - if you'd like to help in some way, contact DeeDee Yez.

And watch the bulletins and weekly emails for more details.

## May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 - First Lutheran hosts CWU May Friendship Day

Thank you to all the ladies of the church who provided the food and decorations.

Three separate Thank-Yous were received from attendees saying how wonderful everything was.



The program was great, too!

*- Betty Bruyn,  
CWU Representative*



### Please Remember in Your Prayers

Kathy Bertelsen Keever, Richard Reynolds, Bill Root, Marjorie Smith, Marjorie Swanson, Kevin Terpening, Dave Erlandson, Bev Coulter, Graham Johnson, Max & Aileen Steele, Adam Davis, Judy Wagy, Bob Kerschke, Jeremy Bruce, Josie Blake, Roger Bean, Steve Kerr, Gary Utter, Jenna, Danielle, Ila Roseberry



*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.*



May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - a day to celebrate at First Lutheran Church!

Graduates Ayla Johnston from United High School and Rachael Nuckles from Concordia University...



...and a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday for Carl Hamburg!

# WORSHIP HELPERS – JUNE 2019

Altar Care: Sue Hanson

Altar Flowers: 2 Carol Hanson, 9 Gary Sanberg, 16 OPEN,  
23 Dave & Fran Bost, 30 Warren & Marlys Dobry

### Acolytes

Sanctuary: 2 & 16 Ayla Johnston, 9 Heide Gallagher, 23 & 30 Elise Blaesing

### Communion Assistants

Chapel: 2 Rob Ravel, 9 & 16 Ray Golden, 23 & 30 Gary Martin

Sanctuary: 2, 9, & 16 Dennis Mann, 23 & 30 Rose Sandstrom

### Lectors

Chapel: 2 Rob Ravel, 9 Elaine Sander, 16 Heide Gallagher,  
23 Kay Lovdahl, 30 OPEN

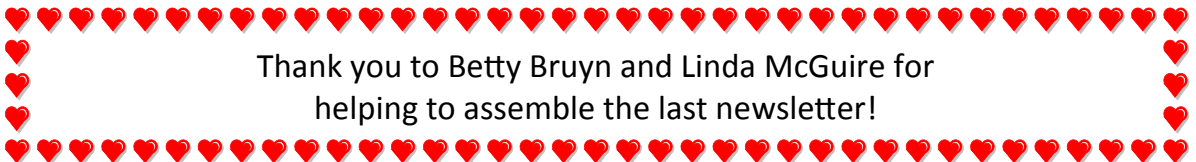
Sanctuary: 2 & 16 Ayla Johnston, 9 Paula Nuckles or Steve Erlandson,  
23 & 30 Andrew Youngquist

### Ushers

Sanctuary: 2, 9, & 16 Dennis & Denise Mann,  
23 & 30 Roger & Linda Ellison

### Visual Aid Assistants

Sanctuary: 2, 9, & 16 Derek Johnston, 23 & 30 Ben Sanberg



# JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

DeeDee & David Yez	6/11/1966	53 years
Michael & Barb Pearson	6/13/1971	48 years
Dave & Kathy Erlandson	6/26/1971	48 years
Chip & Janice Algren	6/30/1973	46 years
Warren & Marlys Dobry	6/30/1973	46 years
Doug & Kathi Cruce	6/14/1975	44 years
Nancy & Rich Hanson	6/14/1975	44 years
Diane & Stan Carlson	6/19/1976	43 years
Mike & Susie Jurgens	6/23/1979	40 years
Neal & Jackie Heerwagen	6/12/1982	37 years
Gary & Jan Martin	6/26/1982	37 years
Gary & Judy Sanberg	6/4/1983	36 years
Rob & Tammy Ravel	6/15/1990	29 years
Pam & John Van Kirk	6/23/1990	29 years
Rodger & Linda Ellison	6/1/1991	28 years
Sue & Bill Barrington	6/12/1993	26 years
Dennis & Becky Terpening	6/7/2001	18 years
Ben & Jenny Sanberg	6/8/2013	6 years



## Birthdays of the Month

Alexia Golden	6/2	Camdyn Miller	6/17
Jarrold Hippen	6/2	Rich Reynolds	6/18
Susie Jurgens	6/2	Aaron Jensen	6/21
Rose Youngquist	6/6	Denise Mann	6/22
Wendy Anderson	6/11	Dave Bost	6/23
Paul Swanson	6/16	Collin Nuckles	6/30

<u>WELCA Circles</u>
JUNE
<u>Sarah</u> Glenna Martin
<u>Naomi</u> DeeDee Yez

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## First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

### April 9, 2019

*(approved May 15, 2019)*

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

Present: David Bost, Raymond Bruyn, Diane Carlson, Steve Erlandson, Jim Johnson, Rose Sandstrom, and Pastor Jamie Gallagher – Ben Sanberg arrived at 6:29.

Absent: Connie Larimer, Ellen Shrader

Discussion was held about the volume of the speaking system in the Sanctuary. Jim Johnson and the Worship Committee were asked to have an Independent Sound Evaluation completed to assess the equipment.

#### Old Business:

- An option to accept donations on our website was tabled.
- New street signs – Jim Johnson and Steve Erlandson will coordinate the project
- Finance Committee provided examples of Budget report formats. Council wanted to try them for a couple of months.
- Pastor reported on a Pastor's Meeting, the Synod Cycle Event in June, and a reminder of the high school choir contest to be held in our sanctuary on Fri., April 12 from noon to 9 p.m.

#### Motioned, Seconded, and Approved

- Minutes from March 12, 2019 Council Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Approved WELCA to coordinate the Strawberry Festival (June 13) with proceeds shared as in previous years
- Approved the Property Committee recommendation authorizing the Finance Committee to have a \$50,000 capital campaign for Front Step Replacement, repair or replacement of the front doors, and more tuck-pointing
- Approved submitted committee reports

Messages of Thanks

- Connie Larimer and DeeDee Yez for organizing the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck
- Betty Bruyn, the Caring Hearts, and all who provided food for the Funeral Luncheon for Dixie Larson
- Betty and Raymond Bruyn for replacing the cupboard door hinges in the kitchen
- All who helped clean up the yard on March 21
- Connie Larimer for organizing the reception for Anna Lovdahl

New Business

- Diane Carlson will coordinate recognition for Mothers' and Fathers' Day
- Set the Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting for May 19 between services
- Graduate reception will be held after the second service on May 19
- Two services will be held on May 26 (the day before Memorial Day)
- The Summer Newsletters will be published monthly
- Confirmation will be held on Reformation Sunday in the fall

Detailed committee reports are available in the office.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm

Next meeting is May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Rose Sandstrom, Secretary Pro tem

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S LEADERS**

PASTOR

Jamie Gallagher

[prjamie@flcmonmouth.org](mailto:prjamie@flcmonmouth.org)

(630) 200-3550

OFFICERS

President: Ben Sanberg

Vice President: Ray Bruyn

Treasurer: Gary Sanberg

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

**Jun 9** - Coffee Hour @ 9:15 AM

**Jun 13** - Strawberry Festival @ 5 PM

**Jun 21 & 22** - Community Care Days

**Jun 30** - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Meal @ 11 AM

## Our Church

The deadline for the next newsletter is **NOON** on **MONDAY, JUNE 24, 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!