



Our Church

(309) 734-2106 office@flcmonmouth.org

Volume CXIII Issue 3

MARCH 2020

***“Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs
that fall from their master’s table.”***

-the Syrophenician woman

Matthew 15:27

Author Lindsay Hardin Freeman writes, “Bible women are an endangered species. Trapped in dry and dusty literary caskets for centuries, they are easily dismissed because they, more than men, are often viewed as simply “good” or “bad.””¹ This assessment opens the introduction to a whole book that examines the sayings of women in the Bible. From naming familiar women, such as the Syrophenician woman who begs Jesus to heal her sick daughter, to obscure women who cry out to the LORD as widows in need of justice, Freeman’s resource demonstrates women in the Bible are not merely categorized as “good” or “bad”.

Yet, throughout the centuries, the Bible has been used to maintain a patriarchy that has dominated civil and church life. The place of woman as subservient or as somehow less equal in terms of leadership has shaped civilizations across the Middle East, Europe, and America – all on the premise, “For the Bible tells me so.” And yet, this is actually not at all what the Bible says.

The Bible is filled with stories of women who are empowered with gifts of leadership, who rise above subservient status despite the cultural obstacles, who proclaim the Word of God, who are leaders in civil affairs and in business and in the burgeoning church of the book of Acts. Fifty years ago, the Lutheran churches that would eventually merge to form the ELCA began ordaining women as pastors in the church. Confident that the Word of God proclaims an equal place for women in all areas of church life, our predecessor Lutheran church bodies as well as many of our partner ecumenical church relationships took the necessary step to correct centuries of abuse by those who wielded the Bible as a weapon against women.

This Lenten season we will engage the Word of God with a particular lens for seeing how Jesus interacted with women. In some cases, Jesus demonstrated a sense of equality with women, and empowered them for ministry alongside his male disciples, countering tradition in his own day. In some cases, as with the Syrophenician women, he learned from the woman that even he had much to gain by recognizing women as having a place in this new kingdom he was proclaiming.

The study we will use was written by the missionaries we support in Tanzania. Rev. Cynthia Holder Rich and Rev. Mark Rich co-authored this resource as they continued their teaching at Tumaini University Makumira. It is six stories of Jesus seeing women – not as “good” or “bad” – but as daughters of God, who have a place in God’s kingdom, a voice for proclaiming the Word of God, and faith in the one who has created all – men and women – in the divine image.

Join us this Lenten season for a refreshing examination of scripture and its witness to the wonderful place women have in God’s Kingdom and Word.

In Christ,
Pastor Jamie

¹ *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter*. Lindsay Hardin Freeman, Forward Movement. 2014. Introduction, page 1

Congregational Resourcing Event

On Saturday, March 14, the Northern Illinois Synod will host its annual Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) at Kishwaukee Community College in Malta, IL (just outside DeKalb, IL). This year, the event will feature Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton as the keynote speaker. Several workshops highlighting ministries that we share across the synod will be held, some that might even impact us right here in Monmouth. Join Pastor Jamie for an exciting day in Malta, learning about the work of the church and how we can be more connected to our synod. For information about when the event begins, carpooling, and more, please talk with Pastor Jamie.

LENT: FEBRUARY 26 TO APRIL 11

Join us this Lent for evening worship, a light supper, and a Bible study.

Lent began with Ash Wednesday, on February 26th. We will continue to have Wednesday Lent events beginning Wednesday, March 4th.

At 5:30 PM, we will gather in the chapel for worship.

At 6:00 PM, we will gather in the fellowship room for a light supper.

And at 6:30 PM, we will begin a Bible study.

This year, we will use *Jesus Sees Women*, an adult Bible study written by Rev. Cynthia Holder Rich and Rev. Mark Rich, who happen to be the missionaries we support in Tanzania. The focus verses will be used in our evening prayer service as the basis for the brief devotion. This will be an engaging Bible study series, so bring your Bibles and be ready to be inspired.

Lenten Lay Breakfasts @ Strom Center, Fridays @ 6:30am

Each Friday morning through Good Friday, April 10th, Strom Center is hosting a Lenten Lay Breakfast. Sponsored by the Warren County Ministerial Association, lay members from area churches take the lead as speakers. First Lutheran's Janice Algren will be speaking March 6th. Breakfast begins at 6:30am with the program from 7:15-7:45am. Attend as your schedule allows!

CWU World Day of Prayer – March 6

Church Women United will meet March 6th for World Day of Prayer. They will meet at Fairview Center Church at 1:30 PM. All women of our church are welcome to attend.

2nd Sunday Coffee & Cookies – March 8

Join us after worship on the 2nd Sunday of the month, March 8th, for a coffee hour in the church narthex (back of the sanctuary). We'll serve great tasting coffee and treats and have a chance to connect as God's family.

5th Sunday Potluck Meal – March 29

The 5th Sunday Potluck Meal will be after the 10 AM service. This potluck is an opportunity for our church family to connect and spend some time together. Bring a dish to pass!

MARCH VISION & PURPOSE

In March, our Vision and Purpose giving will benefit the Western Illinois Animal Rescue here in Monmouth. WIAR was founded in 2000 by a group of Warren County residents who wanted a “No-Kill” shelter option for rescue animals. Today, the shelter is operated by 100% volunteer efforts. Including Nate and Trace Gallagher who recently began volunteering their time.

Twice a week, for about an hour in the afternoon, the boys go and spend time with the cats. “I like playing with the cats,” said Nate, who also demonstrates great care as he completes the tasks of cleaning cages and preparing food and water dishes. Trace says, “It is so much fun, like when I got Popeye [an all-black kitten] to run on their wheel.” Both boys have completed training for caring for the kittens and cats.

The WIAR shelter is located at 300 W Harlem and has open viewing hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Scheduled appointments may be available on Wednesday or Sunday if volunteer staff are available. For more information on WIAR, you may go to their website: wiarrescue.com.

Yes, that has a double “r” in it.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS

In April, Lent wraps up with Holy Week and Easter dawns a new season for us.

Sunday, April 5th is Palm Sunday. Join us at 8:15 AM in the chapel for a traditional Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday liturgy. Join us at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary for an engaging and fresh approach to Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday.

Thursday, April 9th is Maundy Thursday. Join us at noon in the chapel for a traditional Maundy Thursday liturgy, with Holy Communion. Then join us at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary for an experiential Maundy Thursday worship, also complete with the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Sunday, April 12th is Easter Sunday. Join us at 9:15 AM for a potluck Easter Breakfast in our fellowship hall. We will have one celebration worship service at 10:00 AM in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. *No 8:15 AM worship on Easter Sunday.* Join us as the Good News of Christ’s resurrection is the dawn that awakens us into our own new life.

Missionary For A Day – 2020

Stop by the easel in the Fellowship Hall to read January’s mission update from our missionaries, Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich. Then sign up for a day to support their work in Tanzania, either by donating a few dollars, or by praying for them on that day.



MAIL RECEIVED



Dear Friends,

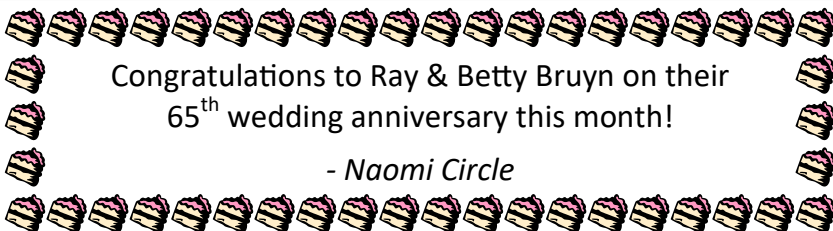
Thank you for investing in our community through Jamieson Community Center. Your donation will be used for our general fund. Because our community is generous in serving one another, we are helping our neighbors meet basic needs.

A few months ago, a young woman in her thirties, who had just been laid off, came to the pantry in need of diapers for her six month old daughter. She had already spent what little cash she had to pay for the doctor’s visit and antibiotics for her daughter, who had just contracted strep. Thanks to a partnership with Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank, we were able to provide diapers for her daughter. We also connected her with Misty from our Food pantry to provide her with a week’s supply of groceries for her and her family.

Thank you for the role you play in helping families who don’t always have the resources to provide for themselves. It’s because of you and your donations that we have been able to sustain a 13% increase in the number of people our food pantry serves. Your generosity has grown each of our programs, allowing people to get to the next level in attaining self-sufficiency. With your continued generosity, we can continue to grow our programs to serve more people in our community. Your gift brings help and hope to a neighbor in need.

Sincerely,
Nancy Mowen
Executive Director

(January 2020’s Vision & Purpose offering sent \$64 to Jamieson Center’s General Fund)



Congratulations to Ray & Betty Bruyn on their 65th wedding anniversary this month!

- Naomi Circle

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Ray and Betty Bruyn	3/26/1955	65 years
Cecil and Kay Lovdahl	3/11/1961	59 years
Phil and Trudy Bergren	3/1/1969	51 years
Coach and Elaine Sander	3/31/1990	30 years
Tammy and Jim Slater	3/14/1998	22 years



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Maggie Champion	3/2	Helen Babcock	3/9	Phil Bergren	3/27
Dana Jensen	3/2	Joey Slater	3/13	Kurt Volz	3/27
Conor Damewood	3/6	DeeDee Yez	3/20	Paul Johnson	3/30
Dawn Johnson	3/7	Heather Ide	3/25	Anna Lovdahl	3/30
Pam Van Kirk	3/7	Patricia Hackspacher	3/26		

WELCA Circles
MARCH

Sarah
Anna Lovdahl

Naomi
Mary Jane Olson
@ CHURCH

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Bradley Anderson, Clarice Anderson, Josie Blake, 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, Elizabeth



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 – MARCH 2020

Altar Care: 1 OPEN, 8 OPEN, 15 OPEN, 22 OPEN, 29 OPEN

Altar Flowers: 1 Vince & Sharon Raymond, 8 Cecil & Kay Lovdahl, 15 OPEN, 22 Ray & Betty Bruyn, 29 OPEN

Acolytes

Sanctuary: 1 OPEN, 8 OPEN, 15 Elise Blaesing, 22 OPEN, 29 OPEN

Communion Assistants

Chapel: 1 Butch Johnson, 8 OPEN, 15 OPEN, 22 & 29 Ray Golden

Sanctuary: 1 OPEN, 8 Ted Hanson, 15 OPEN, 22 Mark Shrader, 29 OPEN

Lectors

Chapel: 1 Heide Gallagher, 8 OPEN, 15 OPEN, 22 OPEN, 29 OPEN

Sanctuary: 1 & 8 Chip Algren, 15 Pam Best, 22 Ellen Shrader, 29 Judy Sanberg

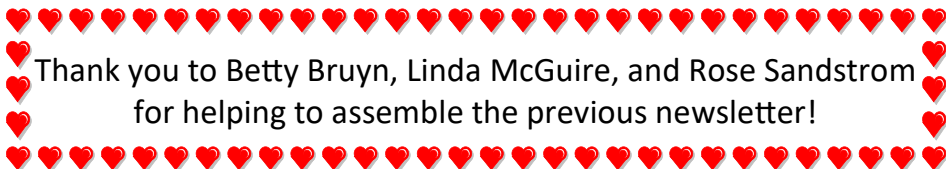
Ushers

Sanctuary: 1 OPEN, 8 Diane Carlson & Ted and Sue Hanson, 15 Julie Blaesing & OPEN, 22 OPEN, 29 OPEN

Visual Aid Assistants

Chapel: 1, 22, & 29 Ray Golden, 8 OPEN, 15 OPEN

Sanctuary: 1 OPEN, 8 OPEN, 15 Maddie Blaesing, 22 OPEN, 29 OPEN



First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes January 14, 2020

(approved February 11, 2020)

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm by Rose Sandstrom, followed with prayer by Ellen Shrader.

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

Absent: Jim Johnson

Motioned, Seconded, and Unanimously Approved

- Approved 2020 budget for submission to the congregation at the Annual Meeting
- Minutes from December 10th meeting
- Treasurer's report
- Submitted committee reports
 - a. Building & Grounds (Steve Erlandson)
 - b. Memorial Fund (Rose Sandstrom)
- A motion was made by Diane Carlson and seconded by Linda McGuire to approve a Resolution to authorize the following people, Gary Sanberg, Rose Sandstrom, Aaron Jensen, and Stephen Erlandson as signers on behalf of First Lutheran Church at Edward Jones and American funds. Motion approved by a unanimous vote (8-0).

Messages of Thanks

- Ray and Alexia Golden for leading the chapel service and Kay Lovdahl and Rob Ravel for lecturing on December 29th
- Maddie Blaesing for leading the sanctuary service and Heidi Niemann for lecturing on December 29th
- Jamie Reynolds for music at the December 29th services
- All involved in the Christmas play on December 22nd
- Maddie, Elise, and Julie Blaesing and Denise Mann and all who helped with the Sankta Lucia program
- Wendy and Reese Anderson for providing the Communion bread for the Christmas Eve service
- All who provided special music during the Christmas Eve service
- All who helped take down the Christmas decorations

New Business

- Audit Committee
- Annual Meeting Agenda
- Vision and Purpose offering for February - Jamieson Center for the Backpack Program
- Updating committee responsibilities

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm

Next meeting is February 11th at 6:30pm

Ellen Shrader, Secretary

Thrivent Choice Dollars – March 31st Deadline

Those of you who are Thrivent members – the deadline to direct your Choice Dollars is March 31st. Both First Lutheran and the Lutheran Pre-School & Day Care Center can receive Choice Dollars. To direct your dollars, either go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call (800) 847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt.

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

Mar 8 - 2nd Sunday Coffee & Cookies @ 11 AM

Mar 14 - Congregational Resourcing Event

Mar 29 - 5th Sunday Potluck Meal @ 11 AM

Apr 5 - Sunday School @ 9:15 AM

Our Church

The deadline for the next newsletter is **1 PM** on **MONDAY, MARCH 23, 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!