



# *Our Church*

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**MAY 2019**

It has been said that the evidence for the resurrection is so strong, that it would be impossible to not believe it - except for two things: It is completely improbably, and in order to believe it, you have to completely change your life.

The celebration of Jesus' resurrection is a seven-Sunday worship festival. That means for seven Sundays we will hear raise our alleluias clear and loud. But if all we do is raise alleluias in worship, then our lives are really not changed. Peter, one of the 12 disciples, experienced the resurrection first hand. He celebrated raising his alleluias clear and loud in the Temple and in his home synagogue. And then he went fishing.

Remember, Peter was a fisherman before he was called to follow Jesus. Following Jesus as teacher was apparently easy, as he dropped everything and went after him. Peter learned along the way it was not so easy, as he couldn't walk on water, he couldn't understand what it meant that Jesus was Messiah, that he got it wrong on the Mount of Transfiguration, he denied knowing Jesus during the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Maybe seeing the resurrection, Peter figured well, this will be hard, I want to go back to fishing now.

Jesus, though, did not let Peter off the hook (pun intended). "Peter!" Jesus calls out to him as they ate breakfast on the beach, "Do you love me?"

"Yes, Lord, you know I love you," Peter replied three times, getting more frustrated each time Jesus asked him.

"Feed my sheep." "Feed my lambs." "Feed my sheep." Jesus calmly instructed with each response.

Experiencing the resurrection should not send us back to our normal lives. The resurrection necessarily changes us. It changes our sense of compassion. It changes our sense of generosity. It changes our judgement attitudes towards others. It changes the very definition of love within us.

As we leave the empty tomb that was proclaimed on Easter Morning, and we head back to the jobs we had before we were called to follow Jesus, Jesus still sits with us each Sunday morning, calling out our name and asking, “Do you love me?”

Since we are raising up our alleluias, our answer must be “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” And it might even be frustrating that Jesus would ask us again and again – after all, look, here we are raising our alleluias.

And yet, Jesus calmly instructs us each time, with no hint of frustration that we don’t get it yet, just prodding us further along the journey of discipleship, and he says, “Feed my sheep.” “Feed my lambs.” “Feed my sheep.”

Peace,  
Pastor Jamie

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## **CYCLE TO SYNOD**

The Northern Illinois Synod World Hunger Committee is sponsoring a bicycle event called Cycle to Synod with the purpose of raising awareness and funds for ELCA World Hunger.

How can you be a part of this event? First, Cycle to Synod is looking for financial sponsors. Every Congregation in our synod is encouraged to have at least 10 people sign up to donate at least \$25 for world hunger. (Checks written to ‘Northern Illinois Synod’, with ‘Cycle to Synod’ written on the memo line can be placed in our offering and will be sent straight to the synod.) Congregations are certainly welcome to have more than 10 financial sponsors, and any gift is appreciated.

Second, you can write a prayer card or encouraging note for the cyclists who are participating. These prayer cards and notes can be given to Pastor Jamie, who is on the planning team for Cycle to Synod.

Third, you can join Cycle to Synod as a bicyclist or as a support driver. The event is Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> with an opportunity to walk into the opening meeting of the Synod Assembly. For more information about what it means to ride your bicycle with the Cycle to Synod, or to drive as a support driver, please talk with Pastor Jamie. He is full of great information about this.

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## **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](mailto:office@flcmonmouth.org) before May 6<sup>th</sup> so your name and who you are honoring or remembering can be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day.

Thank you.

- Rose Youngquist

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## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **Summer Break Begins**

**Confirmation classes** will conclude on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Classes will return in the fall as the three current students prepare to participate in the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday on October 27, 2019.

**Youth Sunday School** meets in the lounge near the Fellowship Hall. All middle and high school youth (and friends!) are invited to this fun faith-building learning and sharing time. (*Last meets May 12<sup>th</sup>*)

**K-5 Sunday School** meets in the Sunday School room in the education building. If you have friends or neighbors with children who do not have a church home, please encourage them to come to Sunday School! (*Last meets May 12<sup>th</sup>*)

### **Graduate Recognition Sunday - May 19**

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, our congregation will recognize those graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school, or college. If you have a student reaching one of these education milestones, please let the office know. A reception will be held between the two worship services, then we will recognize each graduate during 10:30 AM worship.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **May Friendship Day - May 3 @ 9 AM**

First Lutheran Church will host Church Women United's May Friendship Day on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)*

### **Semi-Annual Meeting - May 19 @ 9:30 AM**

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, our congregation will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting to elect council members and other designated positions. This meeting will take place between the two worship services in our Fellowship Hall.

We thank the Nominating Committee (Susie Jurgens, Denise Mann, Judy Sanberg, and DeeDee Yez) for all their work.

As we prepare for our Semi-Annual Meeting and for the elections that are to come, the Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate for our congregation's consideration. Please lift these candidates in prayer for the work they will embark on as leaders within our congregation.

Nominations for...

Congregational Council (3-year term): Evelyn Volz, Warren Dobry, Linda McGuire

Endowment Committee (3-year term): Mike Jurgens, Jackie Gordon Heerwagen

Nominating Committee (2-year term): Susie Jurgens, Judy Sanberg

Memorial Committee (3-year term): Ted Hanson

### **All-Committee Bible Study - Tuesday, May 28 @ 7 PM**

Our All-Committee Bible Study continues Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in our Fellowship Hall. We continue to refine our understanding of our call in mission, and our purpose for each of our committees that lead various ministries here at First Lutheran.

## MOTHER'S DAY QUILT RAFFLE

If you wish to purchase a raffle ticket for the quilt pictured below, tickets will be available in the Fellowship Hall on May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup> between services. The winning ticket will be drawn after the second service on Mother's Day, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

This is a fundraiser to purchase material for our Sewing Circle to use in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. These quilts are sent to third world countries for refugee relief or distributed here in the States after natural disasters. Tickets for the raffle are \$1 each or six for \$5.



## 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!



**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.

WELCA Circles  
MAY

Sarah  
Margaret Hackspacher

Naomi  
Kay Bailey

Anna Lovdahl and her daughter Brenda Jones at the March 24<sup>th</sup> reception in honor of Anna's retirement as Church Librarian.

**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, Judy Wagy, Bob Kerschke, Jeremy Bruce, Josie Blake, Roger Bean



*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 – MAY 2019

Altar Care: DeeDee Yez

Altar Flowers: 5 OPEN, 12 Jamie Reynolds, 19 OPEN, 26 Carl Hamberg

## Acolytes

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

## Communion Assistants

Chapel: 5 & 12 Butch Johnson, 19 Rob Ravel, 26 OPEN

Sanctuary: 5 & 12 Robin Johnson, 19 Steve Erlandson, 26 Dave Bost

## Lectors

Chapel: 5 Elaine Sander, 12 Kay Lovdahl, 19 Heide Gallagher,  
26 Ila Roseberry

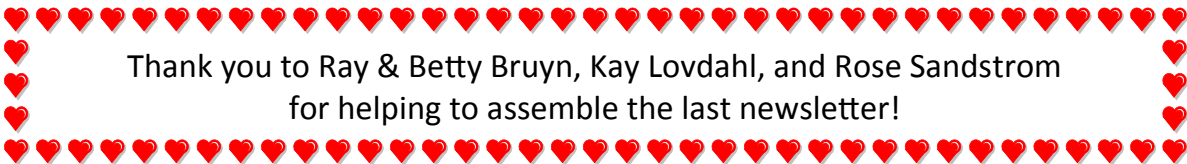
Sanctuary: 5 & 12 Robin Johnson, 19 & 26 Rose Youngquist

## Ushers

Sanctuary: 5 David & Rose Sandstrom, 12 Chris Algren & Carl Hamberg,  
19 & 26 Ron & Deb Manuel

## Visual Aid Assistants

Sanctuary: 5 & 12 Nate Gallagher, 19 & 26 Maddie Blaesing



Thank you to Ray & Betty Bruyn, Kay Lovdahl, and Rose Sandstrom  
for helping to assemble the last newsletter!

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## First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

**March 12, 2019**

*(approved April 9, 2019)*

The meeting was called to order at 5:59pm by Vice President Ray Bruyn, followed with prayer by Pastor Jamie.

Present: Pastor Jamie, Ray Bruyn, Ellen Shrader, Rose Sandstrom, Connie Larimer, Dave Bost, Steve Erlandson

Absent: Ben Sanberg, Jim Johnson, Diane Carlson

### Motioned, Seconded, and Approved

- Minutes from February 19 Council Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Approved new wedding policy
- Approved submitted committee reports

### Message of Thanks

- Connie Larimer, Dee Dee Yez, and Karen Erlandson for serving coffee after church on March 10

### New Business

- One service on March 31st at 10:30am with potluck to follow
- Tabled donation option on website

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Next meeting is April 9th at 6pm.

Ellen Shrader, Council Secretary



# MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Butch & Kaye Johnson	5/22/1960	59 years
Chuck & Connie Larimer	5/6/1972	47 years
Ted & Sue Hanson	5/21/1977	42 years
Ted & Shelly Matson	5/15/1995	24 years
Kirk & Ondria Moulden	5/11/1996	23 years
Jim Johnson & Kim Rains	5/25/2005	14 years

# MAY BIRTHDAYS

Delores Johnson	5/1	Todd Champion	5/18	Mari Hauge	5/28
Butch Johnson	5/2	Carl Hamberg	5/19	Lena Johnson	5/28
Andrew Youngquist	5/6	Linda Ellison	5/22	Nancy Reynolds	5/28
Jacob Ide	5/7	Lorene Nelson	5/22	Kaylee Teel	5/29
Judy Champion	5/9	Heide Gallagher	5/25	Dean Sandstrom	5/31
Katie Gallagher	5/9	Karen Heap	5/25	Tammy Slater	5/31
Shelly Golden	5/16	David Sandstrom	5/26		

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S LEADERS

### PASTOR

Jamie Gallagher

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

**May 3** - CWU May Friendship Day @ 9 AM

**May 12** - Mother's Day  
- Quilt Raffle @ 11:30 AM

**May 19** - Semi-Annual Meeting &  
Graduate Reception @ 9:30 AM

**May 28** - All-Committee Bible Study @ 7 PM

## Our Church

The deadline for the next newsletter is **NOON** on **MONDAY, MAY 27, 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!