



# Our Church

(309) 734-2106 office@flcmonmouth.org

Volume CXII Issue 10

OCTOBER 2019

***You shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.***

*Deuteronomy 26:5*

God did a funny thing many centuries ago. God chose Abraham and Sarah. He revealed himself to a this 75-year-old couple and immediately sent them wandering to a new place. That's right. God chose immigrants to be the family through which he would reveal himself to the world. And the moving didn't stop. Abraham and Sarah left their home of Ur, traveled to the land of Canaan, which would one day be home to their children. But before Canaan would be Israel, Abraham and Sarah would have to flee Canaan and go to Egypt. Eventually, they returned to their new homeland. But again, the immigration did not stop.

Abraham's grandson Jacob would one day run away from Esau, fearing the wrath of Esau. Jacob's son Joseph, sold into slavery in Egypt, would one day welcome his brothers and father into Egypt as they immigrated there to save themselves from a famine. 400 years later, Moses would lead the great exodus as the descendants of Jacob, who only knew Egypt as home, would immigrate back to the land sworn by God to their ancestors.

Do you see a pattern developing here?

God could have chosen an empire that was stationary and fixed in place and unmovable through which to be revealed. But instead, God chose a family that was always on the move. Even after Abraham's many descendants settle and give their tribal name to the place we now know as Israel their moving was still not done. The Israelites would be sent into chaos as the Babylonians would take the Israelites into exile, then as Rome ruled over Judea there was a huge diaspora – a period when Israelites were scattered throughout the Roman Empire. Even the early Christians were immigrants as they followed Jesus' command to be witnesses from Jerusalem, throughout all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

God chose immigrants to be revealed through. And certainly, there was a lot of time God's chosen people were settled into a place they called home. But in that place, God gave the command that they remember their immigrant history. Why should we remember our immigrant history? We remember the hospitality our ancestors received, or the lack of hospitality they received, and we know the hospitality God wants us to give to the next generation of immigrants.

The issue of immigration is not just a political hot-button topic that divides our nation into multiple camps of policy choices. The issue of immigration is at the heart of who God is in the world. God revealed himself to an immigrant family, God chose a nation of people were sometimes settled, sometimes refugee, sometimes immigrant through whom to bring salvation to the entire world. And today, God continues to walk with every refugee and immigrant, hoping his chosen people (the Church) will show a welcoming hospitality – the hospitality of someone who knows what it means to be an immigrant.

I hope you have already joined us for the Immigration and Faith Bible Study. If you haven't yet, there is still time. This is an important conversation and one we can approach with the fullness of faith and love in God, who reminds us always we are just immigrants, waiting for our ultimate homecoming in the eternal Kingdom that is to come.

Peace,  
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.

---

## **OCTOBER VISION & PURPOSE**

What a joy it was to host the missionaries Rev. Mark Rich and Rev. Cynthia Holder Rich over the weekend of September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The council was inspired as we ate with them and heard some of the personal stories of their ministry teaching theology students in Tanzania. In worship, our members and visitors were treated to an amazing presentation that opened our eyes to a beautiful nation that seems worlds away.

The work the Richs do in Tanzania is work done on our behalf. Our financial support makes their work possible.

Now we have another way to support the work they do. We can purchase study Bibles to help the students who come to Makumira. Each Bible costs \$30 to purchase and ship to Tanzania. With October's Vision and Purpose Giving we are hoping to provide 4 Bibles. The specific Bible is published by Harper Collins. Pastor Jamie has a copy of this Bible if you would like to see what resources it will provide the students.

The students who come to Makumira are learning in their third language. They speak their home tribal language, Kiswahili which is the official language of Tanzania, and English as the language of higher education in Tanzania. These students are amazing to be able to study in three different languages. Our support of this project is one way we can tell these students how amazing we think they are, and how much we want them to have the best in preparing for ministry.

Throughout the month, you may give anything you would like to support the Vision and Purpose giving, which we will bless on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Let's reach our goal and exceed our goal as we support the work of the Richs and their students in Tanzania.

---

## **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

The \$50,000 Capital Campaign approved by the Congregation in August is making progress. We currently have 20 pledges equaling approximately 40% of the goal. If you haven't pledged please do so. 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.

## **OCTOBER EVENTS**

### **Halloween Fun Event**

This Halloween season, First Lutheran Church is opening the Parish House for a fun event on Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. This fun event will include games, snacks, costume photos, and a mildly spooky haunted basement.

Student organizations from MRHS will help with the scenes in the haunted basement and with the games. The congregation is asked to help provide themed snacks. If you want to help with the snacks, please talk with Pastor Jamie.

There is a Parish House clean-up day focusing on the basement scheduled for Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM and event set-up times will be on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM and again on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.

This event will be advertised to our local schools and with a sign on the square. Invite your friends and neighbors to bring their young children and grandchildren to experience our Halloween Fun Event on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Confirmation**

Celebrate with us this month as three young members of our congregation reach a milestone of faith. The Rite of Affirmation of Baptism will take place on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> during the 10am worship service. Elise Blaesing, Collin Nuckles and Jackie Slater will affirm their faith during the service.

After worship, we will have a reception in the fellowship hall.

Be sure to join us to see the faith-displays the students are preparing.

Three more class sessions on Wednesdays October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> each at 7pm.

### **First Sunday Sunday School – October 6<sup>th</sup>**

The first Sunday of the month is now our Sunday School day. Everyone, young and old, is invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15am for intergenerational fun and learning. October 6<sup>th</sup> is themed for the Reformation. Join us to learn about Martin Luther and his friends who helped change the church.

---

## **Chin Church/First Lutheran Dinner and Community Concert October 13<sup>th</sup>**

Join us for a wonderful evening of cultural foods and Christian music as we get together with our friends from the Chin Church. At 6pm, we will have a potluck dinner featuring whatever foods we bring! Our Chin Church friends will bring foods unique to their culture, we are invited to bring foods that we are comforted by.

Together, we will enjoy the best flavors of both cultures.

Then at 7pm, we will open our sanctuary to the whole community as music from both churches will entertain everyone and fill us with faith and joy.

This will be a special evening you should not miss.

## **Immigration and Faith Bible Study continues through October**

Our Monday evening Immigration and Faith Bible Study will continue through the month of October. We will have two guest speakers join us.

Professor Robin Ragan from Knox College will share her experiences of work on our southern border on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Laura Fontaine, the Director of World Relief Moline, will join us on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> to share the vital work World Relief does in helping refugees resettle in the United States.

Immigration is a challenging topic in today's political climate. Fear and myths have dominated the cultural conversation and media presentations of the topic. Our Bible study is helping us sort through the fear and myths and discover what voice God would give us on the subject. As the study progresses, we might even hear God calling us to a ministry we have not thought of before as we learn to walk alongside our brothers and sisters who are immigrants and refugees.

It is not too late to join the conversation.

Please note our final session will be SUNDAY, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM to avoid a conflict with the Halloween event set-up.

# CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Blanket Sunday will be October 20<sup>th</sup>

**Providing blankets and more.**



**\$50** can provide five warm blankets for a family left homeless by a tornado or other disaster.

**\$110** can provide an emergency food package for a family of five for one month.



**\$200** can provide 20 mosquito nets to help keep families safe from the bite of mosquitos and the illnesses they bring.

## CHRISTMAS QUILT RAFFLE



Sewing Circle members Betty Bruyn, Diane Carlson, Trudy Bergren, Kay Bailey, Glenna Martin, Margaret Hackspacher, and Rose Youngquist hold the Christmas Quilt at their monthly gathering. Not pictured: Anna Lovdahl. Sewing at home: Karen Ogorzalek, Barb Pearson, Rose Sandstrom.

This Christmas Quilt will be raffled to raise funds for material to make future Mission Quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. They will be available in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday until December 15<sup>th</sup> (Sankta Lucia Sunday), when the winning ticket will be drawn.

Members of the Sewing Circle are working every Tuesday now to complete as many quilts as possible for shipping to Lutheran World Relief on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Some will be displayed on the pews Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Thank you for your support!*

# PRIME BEEF FESTIVAL



Grilling has begun.

Our Gross Receipts were:

Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> – \$2,873

Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – \$2,808

Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – \$3,350

Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – \$2,016

**Total – \$11,047**



Prepping the back of the tent.



Ready to take orders.

Thank you again for the good year at the First Lutheran Food Tent. All of your hard work is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

– *Connie Larimer*





Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the financial support and the prayers you offered during my third year running the Memphis to Peoria run. Your generosity does not go unnoticed and plays a huge role in my ability to continue to participate in this run. Thank you also for allowing me the opportunity to share my experience with you during the services on August 18<sup>th</sup>. I am passionate about St. Jude and the work they do. Again, thank you; your support is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,  
Wendy Anderson



## WORSHIP HELPERS – OCTOBER 2019

Altar Care: Julie Blaesing

Altar Flowers: 6 Algren & Carlson, 13 Gary & Jan Martin, 20 OPEN, 27 OPEN

### Acolytes

Sanctuary: 6 & 13 Heide Gallagher,  
20 & 27 Elise Blaesing & Reese Anderson

### Communion Assistants

Chapel: 6 & 13 Butch Johnson, 20 & 27 Rob Ravel

Sanctuary: 6 & 13 Kurt Volz, 20 & 27 Rose Sandstrom

### Lectors

Chapel: 6 Rob Ravel, 13 Elaine Sander, 20 Kay Lovdahl,  
27 Heide Gallagher

Sanctuary: 6 & 13 Ellen Shrader, 20 & 27 Wendy Anderson

### Ushers

Sanctuary: 6 & 13 Neal & Jackie Heerwagen,  
20 & 27 Del & Judy Champion

### Visual Aid Assistants

Sanctuary: 6 & 13 Derek Johnston, 20 & 27 Maddie Blaesing

---

## First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

### August 13, 2019

*(approved September 10, 2019)*

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Rose Sandstrom, followed with prayer by Evelyn.

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

#### Motioned, Seconded, and Approved

- Minutes from July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Minutes from August 11<sup>th</sup> special meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Move Chapel Flooring balance (\$500) to Capital Campaign
- Approved submitted committee report

#### Messages of Thanks

- Cecil & Kay Lovdahl and Butch & Kaye Johnson for organizing Lake Warren service breakfast
- Emma Nuckles for helping with landscaping around church
- Jamie Reynolds, Collin Nuckles, Ellen & Mark Shrader for July 21<sup>st</sup> service
- Pastor Jamie and Pastor Katie for switching churches on July 14<sup>th</sup>
- All who helped with Brian Patnode benefit
- Pastor Jamie and FLC youth for Lake Warren service

#### New Business

- Add message of thanks for prayers to bulletin, add worship helpers to weekly email blast
- Confirmation on October 27<sup>th</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

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

Ellen Shrader, Secretary

# OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Teresa & Ken Miller	10/15/1977	42 years
Jamie & Katie Gallagher	10/11/1997	22 years
Mark & Ellen Shrader	10/25/2014	5 years

# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Jamie Reynolds	10/4	Ray Bruyn	10/12	Paula Nuckles	10/26
Margaret Hackspacher		Ayla Johnston	10/16	Jackie Heerwagen	10/28
	10/7	Loretta Reynolds	10/18	Bryan Osborn	10/30
Julie Blaesing	10/11	Betty Bruyn	10/21		

## WELCA Circles

### OCTOBER

Sarah

*Meet @ Church*

Naomi

*Linda McGuire*

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S LEADERS

### PASTOR

Jamie Gallagher

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

**Oct 6** - First Sunday Sunday School

**Oct 13** - Chin Church/First Lutheran Dinner & Community Concert

**Oct 20** - Blanket Sunday

**Oct 27** - Rite of Affirmation of Baptism

## Our Church

The deadline for the next newsletter is **1 PM** on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 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!