



Our Church—This Week
for the week of
April 19, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH
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Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher
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Cell (630)200-3550

Secretary
Angela Bradley-Volz
office@flcmonmouth.org
M, T, Th, F (8 am to noon)

Custodian
Chris Algren

Musicians
Janice Algren
Jamie Reynolds

Preschool and Day Care Director
Bobbie Nees
(309) 734-5350

Congregation Council

President: Rose Sandstrom
Vice President: Doug Cruce
Secretary: Diane Carlson
Warren Dobry
Steve Erlandson
Ted Hanson
Jim Johnson
Linda McGuire
Evelyn Volz

Dear Friends and Family,
Thirteen months and counting. We continue to struggle with this pandemic and all its impacts on community life together. We are beginning to experience more of our familiar ways of community worship, with masks and social distancing still governing the way. Our council has begun wrestling with how to host events that may include food service, whether for funerals or just good old fashioned fellowship times. We will be exploring how to hold a strawberry festival once more. And soon enough full home-visits from the pastor will resume. This is an extremely difficult balancing act. We as a community are responsible for one another, and the more interactions we have, the more risk we have for sharing a virus no one wants to deal with. Yet we are exhausted after 13 months of not having our normal contact. Even a handshake after worship felt weird after 13 months of avoiding it, and yet it was so comforting to receive it. As we continue to find the right balance, some will feel we are not returning to normal fast enough, others will feel we are going too fast. And I am in the middle, holding everyone in prayer, empathizing with wanting normal faster, yet cautious to a fault, because reducing risk is in our best interest. This is not easy. But together, we will make through to the end of the pandemic.

Tuesday Bible Study

Join us this Tuesday at 7 PM in our fellowship hall for our return to an in-person Bible study. This week, we will have an overview of the Book of Acts, check out its major themes, and get a feel for how the earliest disciples of Jesus began this whole church movement.

The Book of Acts will serve as a guide as we begin exploring our role as church today. We live in a world that is in many ways so very different from the 1st Century beginnings of the church, and yet there are so many similarities. We live in an era of multiple deities, conflicted political realms, segmented religious factions, and outright uncertainty about what it means to follow Jesus. Yes, the earliest church faced all of this just as we do.

As we study over the next few weeks, we will not only see how the early church leaders dealt with their culture and brought the Good News to the world, but we will also hear where God is leading us today. In many ways, we have ministries that are already happening that just need a boost in attention or refocus as we go forward. Who knows if God has something new in store for us. Our study and prayer will help us to discover those answers.

**Vision and Purpose Giving
April 2021
First Lutheran Quilters**



Our Quilting ladies have been quite busy this year. In a typical season they prepare 40 to 50 quilts to be sent around the nation and the world through the ministry of Lutheran World Relief.

It takes many hands to make one of these quilts. The blocks are cut; then sewn together, then pinned to the batting and the back, finally it is all sewn together and the absolutely last step is to tie yarn in the center of all the squares.

We have a very dedicated group of ladies who are involved with this, and they were recognized in worship yesterday morning by Betty Bruyn who shared a brief temple talk about our quilting group.

Thank you to all who have a hand in this essential ministry.

This month, our Vision and Purpose giving is dedicated to support our quilters. They typically purchase one large roll of batting which can cost nearly \$150 to use each year, and that roll provides for all the quilts they make in a season. The quilters rely on donations from our congregation to make this ministry happen.

Join us next Sunday as we share an extra giving to support our quilters, sending a piece of God's love from Monmouth to all the corners of the earth.

And thank you to Diane Carlson for the picture of the quilts that helped adorn our sanctuary yesterday morning.

Sanctuary Flowers



Contact the office for information regarding the availability of dates to provide for Altar Flowers. More information is available on our website.

A message from the Presiding Bishop

The last 16 days have been a microcosm of the original sins of racism and white supremacy in the United States. This has included the trial of Derek Chauvin in the killing of George Floyd; the extrajudicial killings of Daunte Wright in Brooklyn Park, Minn., and Adam Toledo in Chicago; the lack of justice for Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wis.; and the release of the body cam video of the abuse of Lt. Caron Nazario in Norfolk, Va.

As an anti-racist church that condemns white supremacy, we acknowledge how these injustices are traumatizing to Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) and call on God's comforting love. We join in lament over the lost lives of Daunte and Adam and in the cry for justice. We recognize that "rooted in slavery, racism is manifested through the history of Jim Crow policies, racial segregation, the terror of lynching, extrajudicial killings by law enforcement, and the disproportionate incarceration of people of color" ("[Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#)," page 2).

As we await the verdict in the Chauvin trial, we pray for justice, we cry out as in Amos 5:24: "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." We call for reforms to this and any institutionally racist system. We also encourage you to join Campaign Zero, a 10-point policy platform created by the #BlackLivesMatter movement to address and improve relationships between local law enforcement and the communities in which they serve, at joincampaignzero.org and to learn more about ELCA resources at elca.org/blacklivesmatter.

The 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution condemning white supremacy [[CA19.04.18](#)]. ELCA members can join the efforts to end racism by participating in the ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge [here](#).

We join other Christians in condemning these injustices. Read more at nationalcouncilofchurches.us/topics/statements.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

National Prescription Drug

Take Back Day

Turn in your unused or expired prescription medication for safe disposal.

Friday, April 23, 2021

Bring your unused prescription medications to
Save-A-Lot Foods
From 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

This event is sponsored by:
Monmouth Police Department
OSF Holy Family
Warren County Health Department
Save-A-Lot Foods
Bridgeway Prevention

Returning unused prescription medications prevents overdosing, prescription medication stealing and abuse, and unsafe disposal.

This drive will not accept flammable liquids, illegal drugs, medical waste, medical equipment, mercury thermometers, inhalers, or medical sharps.

This event is funded in whole or in part by the Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Coming in May

Sunday, May 9 is Mother's Day. All women will be recognized

Sunday, May 16 is graduate recognition Sunday. Please let the office know, if you haven't already, if you have a graduate you would like recognized

Sunday, May 23rd is Pentecost Sunday and also our Spring annual meeting immediately after worship. We use this meeting to elect our next council and committee leaders.



Lutheran Day Care and Preschool

A ministry of First Lutheran Church

Bobbi Nees, director

Our Stewardship Ministry



Your generosity makes our ministry possible.

From Sunday worship, to our online worship presence,

To faith formation events, to quilts that travel around the world, to special events, to countless unseen acts of kindness, and to the church-wide Lutheran ministries.

Thank you for your continued support of our church and for making Christ known through your gifts.

Offerings can be brought to in-person worship and placed in the offering plates, mailed into the church office, or made through our easy automatic withdrawal giving plan. Contact the office for more information.

Curious about our Ministries?

We have several committees that are continuing to work even during this time of pandemic. For information on how to join a committee, please call the office.

Active Committees

Finance/Stewardship .. Chair Gary Martin

Building and Grounds .. Chair Steve Erlandson

Meets 1st Monday of each month, 7 PM

Worship and Music ... Council Rep Jim Johnson

Specific Elected Committees

Endowment

Memorial

Personnel

Preschool and Day Care Board

Needing to be revitalized

Christian Education and Youth

Celebrations for through April 30



Apr 11 Angela Bradley-Volz
 Apr 12 Taylor Lanciloti
 Apr 13 Elise Blaesing
 Apr 16 Nate Gallagher
 Apr 18 Chip Algren
 Apr 20 Diane Carlson,
 Warren Dobry,
 Rachael Nuckles
 Apr 22 Dee Dee Yez
 Apr 23 Lindsey Martin,
 Rob Ravel
 Apr 25 Dave Erlandson,
 Richard Hotchkiss
 Apr 28 Sharon Edwin
 Apr 30 Samuel Wolf

Apr 25 Todd and Kris Champion
 Apr 28 Ron and Deb Manuel

Please let the church office know any updates that are needed for our celebrations list.

**Please Keep
 In Your Prayers**

Bradley Anderson,
 Kim Anderson,
 Beckie Bean,
 Josie Blake,
 Diane Bradley,
 Matthew Council,
 Kathi Cruce,
 Nancy Dowell,
 Gary Gaskill,
 John Ellison,
 Linda Ellison,
 Dave Erlandson,
 Jim Erlandson,
 Cassie Jern & Family,
 Graham Johnson,
 Joy Johnson,
 Craig Jones,
 Amber Kerr,
 Julie Kerr,
 Jaxson,

Chris,
 Anna Lovdahl,
 Pat Root,
 Ila Roseberry,
 Charlotte Volz,
 Evelyn Volz,
 Norman Worthington,
 Rose Youngquist,

Please let the church office know any updates that are needed to our prayer list.



Weekly Devotional



All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Acts 2:44-45

In our current political age, everyone tries to claim Jesus as representing their party, or at least they try to claim why Jesus would not be affiliated with the other party. But let me begin by saying: Jesus is NOT a Republican, NOT a Democrat, NOT a socialist, NOT a communist, NOT a Green Party Member, etc. The reason I can absolutely affirm that is because all of these political concepts are modern and the historical Jesus of the 1st Century would not have known anything about these political terms or expressions. There was the Roman Empire, there was religious identity as a Jew, and there was the place where he grew up, Nazareth. Jesus was a Nazarene. Jesus was a Jew. Jesus was not a citizen of Rome, even though the empire ruled over his homeland. Jesus was and is the Son of God, the Messiah. Yet when we read through scripture, we find passages, such as this one in Acts chapter 2, where the believers are gathered in a way that to our modern context we may think this implies communism or socialism. But let's peel back the layers of our political understanding for a moment and just see this for what it is.

The earliest believers knew they were stronger as a community that cared for and provided for one another. How we do that in our modern political and economic age may be different than 1st Century Roman Empire. But the principles are still there for us. We are stronger as a community when we care for one another and provide for one another. That isn't a political agenda. That is a faithful follower of the Son of God, the Messiah, agenda. Examples of caring for one another is seen in our phone calls and visits. Sure, the Covid pandemic has impacted some of the ways we visit, but we still have opportunities to be there for one another. Thank you for all the ways you care for one another. We provide for one another through sharing meals, donating when a neighbor is struggling, and more. There are many ways we have done this and lots of great examples within our congregation. Thank you for all the ways you provide for one another. Together, we are a stronger community as we care and provide for each other.

In peace, Pastor Jamie