



Our Church—This Week
for the week of
April 26, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

116 S. B Street, Monmouth, IL 61462; (309)734-2106
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FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH
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Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher
prjamie@flcmonmouth.org
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,
April showers bring May flowers. And Mayflowers bring pilgrims! Ha Ha. The calendar flips another page at the end of this week, and the pilgrim joke is a bit more timely in my household as this summer our family has a vacation planned to Boston and then up to Maine. I am not sure if we will get over to see the infamous, and entirely mythological Plymouth Rock, but other historical sites are definitely on our list of things to do. It is weird to think after a year of pandemic we are beginning to think beyond our own doors once more, that traveling outside the county and even dare we go beyond the state borders once more may just be acceptable. Caution still governs our planning, but it is a joy to begin thinking near normal once more. How will we grow toward normal here at home? We are still waiting to see when the Governor will lift the mask mandate and the social distance requirement. We are still hoping to experience the full liturgy before the end of the summer. We are still looking forward to the onslaught of pilgrims yearning to be back inside a sanctuary to praise God for carrying us through this pandemic safely to the other side, all the stronger for having been through this, and all the wiser for the many lessons the pandemic has taught us.

Tuesday Bible Study

The Correct Time for the Bible Study is 6:30 PM on Tuesday. I apologize for any inconvenience by publishing two conflicting times in the past. The group met last week and decided together that 6:30 PM would be the correct time going forward.

Why gather to study the Bible? For starters it helps build a communal language of faith. Yes, when we gather and read the stories together and share our interpretations of them and grow in faith together, we build a faith language that we all share. This shared faith language helps us express how God interacted with people long ago so we can express how God interacts with people today.

Our Acts Bible study is focusing on the lessons learned by the early church as they lived out Jesus' command to be his witnesses beginning in Jerusalem and going to the ends of the earth. Our modern Monmouth has many similarities to ancient Jerusalem. There are many languages spoken here, many interpretations of faith here, and the desire to be God's people in the best way possible. Join us as we hear how the early disciples became church, so we can grow into the post-pandemic church God desires us to be .

Pastor Jamie will be out of the office
Wednesday, April 28 to Friday, April 30

You can reach Pastor Jamie by cell phone, 630-200-3550. For immediate Pastoral Care emergencies, please call Pastor Katie Gallagher using her cell phone 630-200-3288.

The Southwest Conference of the Northern Illinois Synod met last week by Zoom. During the meeting, Pastor Jamie was elected to a second term as treasurer for the conference.

The Southwest Conference includes churches from Stronghurst to Kewanee, from Aledo to Knoxville.

Much of our conference plans were put on hold last year, but there is hopes of having an organ concert/hymn sing scheduled in the near future when larger gatherings are permitted again. More information will be published when it is available.

Sanctuary Flowers



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

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



God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

1 John 4:16

The word “abide” has an archaic meaning that is to live, or to dwell. Synonyms include: reside, hang one’s hat, be settled, hang out, sojourn. Reread 1 John 4:16 with a few of those synonyms. “Those who hang one’s hat in love hang one’s hat in God, and God hangs God’s hat in them.” “Those who are settled in love are settled in God and God is settled in them.” And so on. This really brings this verse to life in a whole new way. It also opens the hymn “Abide With Me” in a new way as well. “Hang out with me, fast falls the eventide” I shared a story in my sermon yesterday, that I want to share again here, that I think opens us to what this word “abide” is all about. While walking Saturday night, my wife and I came across a scene where 3 people were finishing some kind of altercation. One was pulling another away, and as that pair left the area, one was left. This woman was alone and was crying. We did not see what all happened, as we came up to the situation as it was ending. I asked if the woman was okay, and my wife and I offered to walk with her as she was heading to meet some friends. As we walked, we made small talk. We learned a little of her story. We shared a little of ours. And we just walked. This is the fullness of “abiding” with someone. We were settled together as we walked towards the Square. We were hanging out. We were not offering solutions, quick fixes, critiques, or casting any judgment. We simply walked alongside of one another. There may be a time for solutions, there may be a time for critique. But most often, the time of abiding is not that time. This is God’s journey with us. God meets us in the moment we are experiencing. Whether we are dealing with peace or conflict. God abides with us. God settles right next to us and joins us as we journey to the next place. God hangs out with us. God doesn’t offer solutions or critiques, though there may be a time for both, the time for abiding does not include that. This is perfect love, perfect peace with God. And we are offered a glimpse of this when we abide with one another. Sometimes, it is a perfect stranger and a random coincidence we are at the same place for this abiding to happen. Sometimes, it is our family, our friends, our fellow church members. Abide with one another, our faith exhorts us, for fast falls the eventide.

In peace, Pastor Jamie