



| Our Church       |        |         |           |          |        |          |
|------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Sunday           | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| <i>This Week</i> |        |         |           |          |        |          |

**AUGUST**  
**2020**

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

116 S. B Street, Monmouth, IL 61462; (309)734-2106  
www.flcmonmouth.org; email: office@flcmonmouth.org



FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH  
@FLCMONMOUTH.ORG

### 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,

Welcome to our new rendition of the weekly email newsletter, "Our Church—This Week." With the pandemic continuing, and news out what is happening changing quickly, we will not return to a monthly newsletter for sometime. Our weekly format will keep us up-to-date and allow a greater flexibility as information changes.

Since this format is new this week, there may be some tweaking that takes place over the next couple of weeks. I appreciate your patience as we develop the best format for delivering current ministry information to all our members and friends.

If you have information you would like shared with the congregation, please email the office. We will include that information with the next Our Church—This Week or Worship Notes.

### **New Ministry Idea—Zoom Meeting**

Are you looking for ways to live out your faith in a time of global pandemic? Do you want to connect with people, serving as Jesus calls you to, but aren't sure how when social distancing is the new norm? Well, do I have a Zoom Meeting for you.



Monday, August 24th at 6:30 PM, Pastor Jamie will host a Zoom Meeting to discuss ministry ideas for our congregation. Pastor is already discussing with neighboring churches an idea for a ministry fair on the square later in September; additional ideas we can discuss are taking pies to members of the church, visiting members bringing them communion at home, creating flyers that talk about community resources and canvassing the neighborhoods delivering the flyers, creating a school resource room and opening to the public for those who need items for school, or who knows what the Holy Spirit may bring up in our conversation that night.

This meeting is open to all members. A link to the Zoom meeting will be included with next Monday's email.

# Worship

Thank You  
FOR  
**GIVING**  
GENEROUSLY

Thank you for continuing to remember the ministry of First Lutheran Church.

We accept offerings by mail, in worship, and through electronic giving.

To receive a form to begin electronic giving, please email the office and request one. Angela will mail you a copy and once you return that form, giving will be automatically withdrawn from your account.

Your giving supports our congregation and beyond.

## Vision and Purpose Giving

Each month we have a designated special giving project. For August, we will have a special offering to support the Western Illinois Animal Rescue. This shelter located in Monmouth provides rescue animals a chance to be adopted. Donations support medical care and food. The center operates with the help of the many volunteers who come in to feed and socialize the dogs and cats as they away their forever home.

Donations for Vision and Purpose are welcome throughout all of August. A prayer will be lifted up in worship on August 30th for the Western Illinois Animal Rescue.

The WIAR is located at 300 W. Harlem, Monmouth.

[www.wiarrescue.com](http://www.wiarrescue.com)



Did you know there are 640 acres of wooded paradise located just south of Oregon, Illinois that is home to our church camp?

LOMC has not been able to provide its regular summer programming, due to the pandemic, yet it has remained a vital center for outdoor ministry. A portion of our offerings supports LOMC through our mission support to the Northern Illinois Synod. Check out more information about this great ministry by going to [LOMC.org](http://LOMC.org).

We continue with the Season after Pentecost. This August through October, we are exploring the Old Testament stories of Joseph and Moses. This upcoming week we will hear about the birth of Moses and the context of his birth. The topic of slavery is a major theme of Israel's time in Egypt, and for far too long Christians have used the Bible to justify slavery. The Bible should be used to justify liberation and freedom for all who are oppressed.

Join us Sunday either during our 9 AM in-person worship, or through the worship video link that is emailed on Mondays to hear God siding with those who need to experience liberation and freedom

## Worship Assistants

### Training Opportunity



Pastor Jamie is looking to create a team of worship assistants who can be scheduled regularly to assist with worship. A brief training session will be held after worship on Sunday, August 30th. We will practice leading the liturgical responses and liturgical gestures, we will talk about serving communion and best practices. If you are curious about helping, but want a little help before volunteering, this is the opportunity for you. Let Pastor Jamie know if you are available on Sunday, August 30th, after worship, for this brief training session.

The worship video from Sunday, August 16th is now posted on our church website:

[www.flcmonmouth.org](http://www.flcmonmouth.org)

A link is also included with our weekly email.





- Aug 17, Cara Johnson
- Aug 18, Haley Osborn
- Aug 19, Cally Tate
- Aug 20, Olin Shaner
- Aug 21, Fran Bost
- Aug 22, Justin Barney
- Aug 23, Kenny Reynolds



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, Elizabeth, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Jim Johnson, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Tucker Smith, Marjorie Swanson, Norman Worthington, Carmen, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson

and Sgt. Lacey Elliott, who continues to serve our country  
Please let the church office know any updates that are needed to our prayer list.



Wednesday, September 9th at 3 PM, we will resume our weekly Zoom Bible Study. Theme will be announced as we approach that time. Zoom links will be included in our Monday emails.

All are welcome to join us at 3 PM for a chance to encounter the Holy Spirit in Word and conversation.



We wish all the best to Sandi Harmon who officially retires this week as the director of the Lutheran Preschool and Day Care. Sandi has served this ministry for over 30 years. Her work and dedication have proven to be invaluable to our congregation and community.

The congregation council presented Sandi with a gift of a wind chime and a gift certificate for Bass Pro Shops.

Thank you, Sandi, and God's many blessings as you begin the next chapter of life.



**Living the Creed**

For Sunday, August 23rd, our Living the Creed worship feature will be another Take Home Exercise for the whole family. This week, take a moment to look up an American Abolitionist—someone who fought against slavery.

Use the website for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati to help you begin your journey. By clicking on "Learn" and on "Heroes" you can see several names to choose from. Read about the life of this abolitionist and ask how does this relate to our modern day living. The website is

[freedomcenter.org](http://freedomcenter.org)

If you are ever in Cincinnati, this museum is well worth the visit.



Beginning as the new director for the Lutheran Preschool and Day Care is Bobbie Nees.

Bobbie has served as a teacher for the past 3 years and is looking forward to embracing this new role. It is a challenging time, but we are hopeful our Preschool and Day Care will survive this challenge and will continue to be a vital ministry in our community.

### Building and Grounds Updates

Check out the newly painted doors around the building. The protective glass for the stained glass doors entering the sanctuary will be installed soon. The tuck-pointing project will start soon as well, watch for a lift to arrive and work to begin around the sanctuary building, protecting our masonry and maintaining our building for future generations.



### Support our Missionaries

#### Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich

Our missionaries teach at Tumaini University, Makumira, in Tanzania

Due to the pandemic, they have returned to their home in Ohio; they are currently teaching remotely. Support for our missionaries is about \$1,000 a year, please remember to designate giving to support their powerful work.

### 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

Worship and Music ... Council Rep Jim Johnson

#### Specific Elected Committees

Endowment

Memorial

Personnel

Preschool and Day Care Board

#### In-Active Committee

Christian Education and Youth

### Weekly Devotional



She replied, "...but even the dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their master's table."

Matthew 15:27

"Nevertheless, she persisted," is a phrase that gained popularity in the American feminist movement in 2017, when the US Senate voted to silence Senator Elizabeth Warren as she tried to object to the appointment of Jeff Sessions to US Attorney General. The phrase has power because Senator Warren did not stop raising her objections, even after the vote. This phrase may raise some flags for those who are invested politically in our nation—for those who favored Senator Warren's censorship, this phrase triggers a warning of trouble; for those who side with Senator Warren, this phrase is a rallying cry to carry on for what is right even if others don't agree with you.

As an expression of faith, we find this phrase in a story in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus travels to Sidon and Tyre for a break from his ministry. There a Canaanite woman approaches him and asks for help. He refuses to listen to her, "nevertheless, she persisted." The disciples try to shoo her away, "nevertheless, she persisted." Jesus finally speaks to her, but in a very dismissive manor, "nevertheless, she persisted." Her insistence that Jesus hear her cry for help eventually leads Jesus to healing the woman's child. Jesus even commends her faith. And St. Matthew records her story in his Gospel as a story of what persistent faith looks like, even for someone outside of the faith community.

So what do we do with this expression today? Persistence is firmly rooted as a positive quality in the gospels; yet politically it is a flag of trouble. Perhaps it isn't the persistence that is the trouble. Perhaps we need to know what we are to be persistent about. When we take the side of the oppressed, the outcast, the downtrodden—when we fight for equal rights, to be heard in a system that desperately wants to silence us—then we are persisting for the right reasons, and then our faith is to be commended. Persistence should rock the boat, persistence should fight unjust systems, persistence should bring light to darkness. May we always be compelled to persist for what is right.

Peace,

Pastor Jamie

