



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 MONNMOUTH
 @FLCMONMOUTH.ORG

Our Staff

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Angela Bradley-Volz
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 M, T, Th, F (8 am to noon)

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Preschool and Day Care Director

Bobbie Nees
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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,

The school year finally begins again today. Many parents are trying to figure out new ways of having children remote learn at home, pick up lunches, and maintain regular work patterns. It is a time to give one another a lot of grace, and that includes the teachers and administrators of our excellent schools who are also struggling to figure out if the plan will work as they hope it will.

Blessings to all who are dealing with this struggle. I walk this with you. As I type, I have one at home, and one in my office, and I think I have figured out how I am getting them both lunch today. We will see how it goes.

To new ways of learning—God, we place ourselves in your care.

New Ministry Idea—Zoom Meeting

Join us tonight, Monday, August 24th at 7 PM by Zoom as we discuss some new ministry ideas.

Two new ministry concepts being worked on already include 1) an event involving churches throughout the community to give things away, and to receive donations for local community charities; 2) a way to bring communion to our members who are not able to join us in worship.

But these are just two ideas. How else is God calling us to serve during this pandemic? What other community needs can be identified and can be matched by our congregation's gifts and passion?

A link to the Zoom meeting is in the email that came with this PDF.



Worship Assistant Training

Join us after worship on Sunday, August 30 for a brief walk-through of how to be a worship assistant. Since we resumed in-person worship, the assistant role combines several roles into one. Joining us after worship will help you become comfortable leading in all these roles.

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



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Serving Illinois since 1867, LSSI is a nonprofit social service organization of the three Illinois synods of the ELCA. LSSI is one of the largest statewide social service providers. The organization provides critical programs for over 50,000 Illinois residents each year, including foster care, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, affordable senior housing, residential programs for people with developmental disabilities, and services that help families who have been impacted by incarceration.

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 Moses encountering Yahweh at Mt. Horeb, and in the burning bush God sends Moses to liberate God's people from Egypt. God still hears the cries of people who are oppressed today. And God still responds to those crying out.

Join us Sunday either during our 9 AM in-person worship, or through the worship video link that is emailed on Monday with the Our Church-This Week newsletter.



Living the Creed

Sunday, August 30th Living the Creed Take Home Exercise

This week, we will talk about how God hears the cries of those who are oppressed. Our neighbors at the Chin Church are people who were oppressed and God heard their cries and they came to us here. Our Living the Faith PDF will look at the journey a refugee takes and how a refugee is resettled in a new place. If you haven't had a chance to reconnect with your friends from the Chin Church, this week may be a good week to check in with them.

The worship video from Sunday, August 23rd is now posted on our church website:

www.flcmonmouth.org

A link is also included with our weekly email.





Aug 24 Pam Best
 Aug 25 Robin Johnson
 Aug 27 Kathy Fillman
 Aug 28 Janet Oliphant

Aug 28 Hal and Kathy Tate
 (44 years)



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.

NIS World Hunger Event

Monday, August 31st at 7 PM the Northern Illinois Synod World Hunger committee will host a Zoom resource event.

Pastor Jamie serves on this committee in the synod and will be hosting one of the breakout sessions during this Zoom event.

The world hunger crisis is impacted by the pandemic. Congregations are looking for new ways to make a difference both in their own community and across the globe.

This Zoom event will highlight efforts happening in our synod. Congregations are still making a difference. The stories and sharing that takes place during this event will inspire us to think about our own ministries and how we can continue to make a difference and help during this time.

Seeds of Life and Hope, Registration information:

<https://nisynod.org/seeds-life-hope>

Please register by August 30. Monday, August 31, 7:00 pm

The north entrance steps are completed, the doors are freshly restored with new paint and new clear glass protecting the stained glass windows in the doors.

Drive by and check out all the newly painted doors. A series of pictures from around our building was also posted on our Facebook pages as well as our website.



Local Underground Railroad spots

After worship yesterday, Gary Sanberg shared that there is a known Underground Railroad site located just about a mile north of his farm. The site is an old shed that had a room underground where runaway slaves were hidden as they waited safe “passage” to stations in Knox County and beyond.

We give thanks for our ancestors in Warren County who stood for what is right.



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



Simon Peter answered [Jesus], “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:16

It matters that Peter made this confession in the middle of Caesarea Philippi. The Roman city was a center of trade, politics, and home to a wide array of cultural religions. It matters in this place that worshiped the Roman emperor as a God, and worshipped a host of Greco-Roman gods as well as other Middle Eastern deities. It matters in this place that was a demonstration of Roman wealth and excessive greed. It matters in this place where cultures from around the world met to trade their goods. It matters that Peter was able to name Jesus as the Messiah, the anointed one, the one who would bring salvation—NOT the Roman emperor, not the Greco-Roman gods, not the almighty dollar of trade.

It matters that Matthew shared this story to his first listeners. In the mid 70’s of the first century, the Romans had demolished Jerusalem. The Temple to Yahweh, a major symbol of God for even the first generation of Christians, was flattened. It mattered that in the midst of this destruction and Roman exercise of power that Matthew still claimed Jesus as Messiah, the anointed one, the one who would bring salvation—NOT the Roman army, not the Greco-Roman gods whose temples now stood where Yahweh was once worshipped.

It matters today that we still make the same assertion: “Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Politics divide us. A pandemic overwhelms us. Mother nature continues to abuse us (two hurricanes in one week in the Gulf of Mexico, wildfires across the west, drought in the Midwest, excessive heat returning this week). Greed consumes our world. It matters that we come to church (in-person or online). It matters that we serve because Christ loved us first. It matters that we confess with the words of the Apostles Creed “I believe in God the Father; God the Son; God the Holy Spirit.” It matters that the world still needs to hear the Good News :”Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Be of good courage and rejoice with expectant hope and share this amazing assurance: “Jesus is the Messiah.” It matters.
Peace, Pastor Jamie