



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

September

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,

I took a moment during worship on Sunday, August 30 to recognize the work of our church musicians. This happened quite by accident, as Jamie realized part way into the service that I forgot to include a video selection he sent me. Sure, that was a simple moment to fix, and Jamie played something instead. But it was a good reminder that we sometimes overlook two of our most valuable leaders in worship. Our two church organists, Janice and Jamie, have adjusted and learned so much during this pandemic, and continue to provide wonderful music, giving us the opportunity to reflect on God's presence in our midst through what they are playing. Take a moment and recognize our two musicians. Send them an encouraging note, when you see them, offer a word of thanks for all they do. Let them know how appreciated they both are.

Home Communion Starting Soon

At our recent Zoom ministry ideas meeting, we discussed a plan to bring communion to members at their homes. This plan includes new home communion kits for members to have at home. These kits will be complete with a small table cloth, small plate, communion cups, a cross, and a candle, all kept in a nice cloth bag. These kits will also come with a brief devotion and home baked bread and grape juice. We are planning to begin this ministry after Labor Day.

For our members who are on our homebound/shut-in list, you will receive a phone call scheduling a time Pastor can come to your home. For other members who wish to receive communion, you are asked to call or text or email Pastor Jamie to schedule a time. Each visit will be brief. Pastor Jamie will greet you at your door and not enter your home. Pastor will drop off the home communion kit, which you keep at home, and the supplies for communion. Communion can be scheduled once or twice a month.

For many, the pandemic has meant missing this most important connection with Jesus. It is our hope that providing these new home communion kits and supplies that at your home you will feel included once more in the sacrament. If you have any questions about home communion, feel free to ask Pastor Jamie.



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

In September, our designated monthly special project giving is going to assist the Open Table organization in Monmouth.

Open Table is a group of people who assist a family by creating a support network for the family. This support may include providing resources to assist the family, be a reference table for conversation for an array of "how-to" questions; and provide other supports the family may not have if they are separated from other family or friends.

In other words, Open Table becomes a family and friend network, helping someone get established and secure footing. This month, our donations will assist Open Table help this family achieve some financial stability after a recent move. All Vision and Purpose Giving can be included with your regular offerings when you attend worship or mail offerings to the office.

This global network affirms God's love for all people, working with Lutherans and other partners to bring an end to poverty, injustice, and human suffering.



You may recognize LWR from our quilt ministry. LWR also collects personal care kits, baby care kits, school kits, and fabric kits.

Check out our updated resources page on our website, click the link to LWR and learn more.

The Season of Pentecost continues with another lesson from Exodus. Moses is preparing the Israelites for the final plague, and the meal of Pass-Over is instituted as a sign of God's action in their midst on that night. As Christians, we have been given the sacrament of communion as our sign of God's action in our midst. We will explore how that sign really does show us God's action in today's world.

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

Take Home Exercise

Sunday, September 6th

The institution of the Passover festival is the root of our sacrament of communion. It shows us God's action in the world. The Living the Creed PDF for this weekend will be all about communion, and give families an opportunity to share stories with one another about when each received their first communion, what they feel as they approach the altar with outstretched hands, and how they feel God is acting in the world through bread and wine.

The worship video from Sunday, August 30th is now posted on our church website:

www.flcmonmouth.org

A link is also included with our weekly email.





Aug 31 Wendell Nelson

Aug 31 Brian Wray and Nina Shimmin (6 years)

Sept 1 Ila Roseberry

Sept 2 Dennis and Denise Mann (42 years)

Sept 2 Kristi Hippen

Sept 5 Bryan and Keri Osborn (28 years)

Sept 2 Nell Marie Killip

Sept 3 Marjorie Swanson

Sept 4 Chris Algren



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, Brad and Jodie Haist

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.

Check out our updated Website

Flcmonmouth.org

We have a new "About" section, with descriptions of our pastor, staff, council, and a brief history.

We have updated our "Resources" section with links to a variety of church and local websites.

We have included a new section for our Day Care.

All of these are undergoing daily editing to help convey useful information and to provide the best online ministry we can.

Thanks to Angela Bradley-Volz who has prepared these updates.

Worship Helpers

A word of Thanks to those who have volunteered to be our worship assistants:

Doug Cruce, Judy Sanberg, Pam Van Kirk, Pam Best, Ellen and Mark Shrader, Jim Johnson, and Chip Algren

A rotating schedule will be assigned.

Worship assistants lead congregational responses, read the appointed lessons, and assist with distributing communion.

If you would like to assist as a Worship Assistant, please let Pastor Jamie know.

We are still in need of ushers. Ushers greet people as they enter the sanctuary, make sure they see where to place their offerings, and assist with dismissing rows during communion. Ushers will also be asked to check if an acolyte is available that Sunday, and if not, to light the candles before worship begins and to extinguish the candles after worship.



Labor Day

As a reminder, the office will be closed on Monday, September 7th, 2020 for Labor Day.



The next “Our Church—This Week” will be published on Tuesday, September 8th.

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

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.

Weekly Devotional



But Peter took [Jesus] aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things [that he would suffer and be killed]. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!”

Matthew 16:22

It was rather noble of Peter, or at least it was in his own mind noble to do so, to stand up to Jesus. Peter had just declared Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one of God, the long-awaited Savior. Peter believed a number of ancient myths about the coming Messiah. One of those myths was that a new kingdom would be established with a king who would live forever. Naturally, then, as Jesus talked about his own death that kind of talk didn't agree with the stories Peter has heard since his youth. Someone had to explain this to Jesus. Someone had to tell Jesus that dying isn't a glorious thing. Dying doesn't lead to leading a kingdom on an eternal throne.

Jesus, however, will define the role of Messiah not on ancient Hebrew myths, but on what he has been sent into the world to fulfill. And for Jesus, the path to being Messiah necessarily included the cross. Being Messiah meant being rejected by the very people he came to save. Being Messiah necessitated a harsh reality check. That reality check came on the cross, when the entire sinful nature of this world was exposed and died, along with the only one who could stand up again after being killed.

Peter had a long way to go in his understanding of what it meant that Jesus was not the Messiah of ancient myths, but the Messiah that God has chosen for the world. Peter is a stand in for each of us. We want the Messiah to be one who fulfills myths—both ancient and modern. The Messiah should be Zeus, and Hera, and Hercules, and Batman, and Superman, and Wonder Woman, all rolled into one. But he isn't. He is the one who met the fulness of the world's sin on a cross. He is the only one who stood up after that death to show us God's love wins—not the sins of this world. We still have a long way to go in understanding what it means that Jesus is not the messiah of our own myths, but the Messiah God has chosen for the world.

Peace, Pastor Jamie