



February

Our Church—This Week
for the week of
February 1, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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,

Thank you everyone who joined us for our congregation meeting on Zoom and during the drive-through voting. This was a special circumstance meeting, and we certainly hope that it is the only time we have to use this format for a congregation meeting.

The weather certainly cooperated and I do have pictures to share—on the next page I have screen shots of everyone participating in the Zoom meeting as well as a couple pictures of our dedicated council members standing outside waiting for votes.

The mitigations have changed once again in Illinois and at our February council meeting, we will discuss the possibility of returning to in-person worship. When we do return, I am sure we will all celebrate and be thankful and rejoice, just as we do each week in our homes as we worship together using our on-line worship video.

Congregation Meeting Results

We had over 50 members participate in both the Zoom and the drive-through voting. Quorum for our meeting was 32, so we exceeded our need for quorum.

The measures on the paper ballot and the results are as follows:

Ratification Vote—to approve the constitution amendment: 44 yes, 1 no

2021 Budget - to approve the 2021 budget: 44 yes, 1 no

2021 Missionary Support—to approve \$1000 for Missionaries: 44 yes, 1 no

2021 Synod Assembly—to approve expenses for delegates: 44 yes, 1 no

All four motions were approved. Minutes will be available at our next congregation meeting.

Thank you again to all who made this meeting possible—Pastor Jamie for hosting the Zoom meeting; Rose Sandstrom for chairing as council president, Diane Carlson for taking attendance and notes, and Steve Erlandson, Dave and Rose Sandstrom, Doug Cruce and Diane Carlson for helping with collecting and counting the votes.

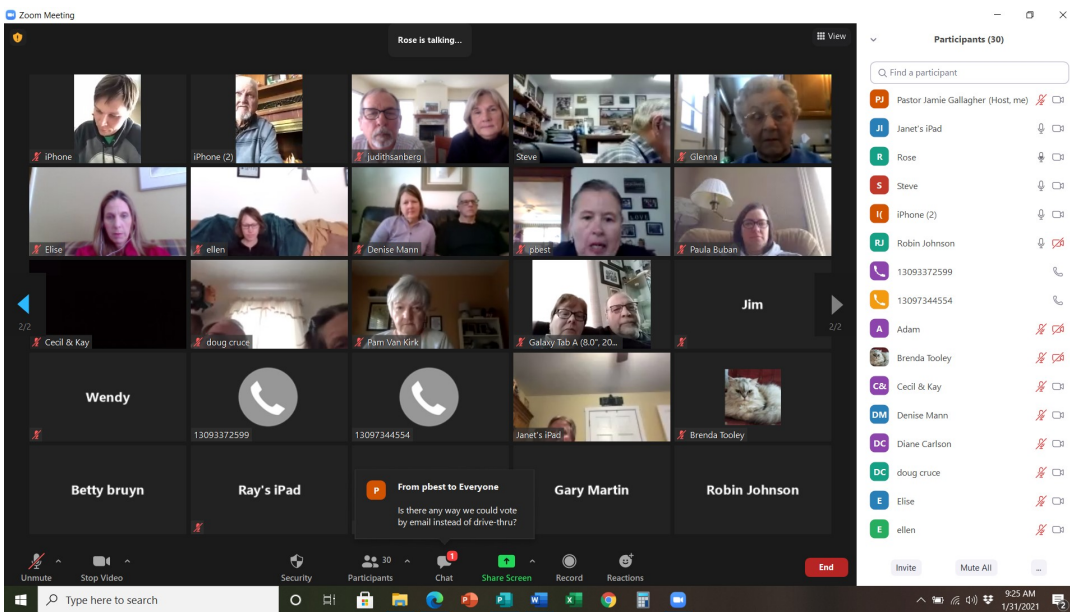


What a beautiful day for a congregation meeting!

See what it looked like to have everyone on Zoom? It took 2 screens to see everyone.

And thankfully, we just got a little bit of snow over night, so being out in the parking lot to gather votes wasn't too bad at all.

Thank you again as everyone who came properly wore masks.



Our Stewardship Ministry



Stewardship matters. It is how we give thanks to God who has provided for so much. When we give to the church, we support many ministries beyond our own building and community. A portion of our offerings goes to the Northern Illinois Synod, which then allots a portion to the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center and many other places.

Thank you for your generosity which helps others experience Jesus.



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Brad and Jodie Haist, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council, Rose Youngquist, Kathi Cruce, Craig Jones

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



Lutheran Day Care and Preschool

A ministry of First Lutheran Church
Bobbi Nees, director



Our midweek Wednesday Bible study resumes this week at 3 PM on Wednesday. Follow the Zoom Link included

with the email to join in.

We continue our study of the Gospel of Mark and turn to chapter 13 this week.

Becky Terpening has created a new church-design T-shirt and canvas tote bag. From each sale item, she will give \$5 to the church.

This is a great fundraiser for the church, a great opportunity to lift up the Becky's ministry talents, and to promote our church through these items.

The Order Form will be attached to the Email as a PDF. Complete one and send it to Becky at the address on the form.

Once the orders are completed, Becky will deliver to the church for pick-up.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday will not have an in-person worship service this year. February 17th will have a worship video released that day, though.

Pastor Jamie will send out to members a black piece of cloth and a safety pin that you can wear on February 17th.

Ashes remind us of our human mortality, and that God first made us from the dust of the earth. At times of great mourning or confession of tremendous sin, individuals in the Bible would wear ashes as a physical reminder of the spiritual renewal God is providing.

This year, we mourn all that has been lost over the previous year, as the pandemic has taken from us friends and loved ones, milestone moments, and more. Wearing the black cloth on Ash Wednesday then will be much like wearing the ashes received in worship. It will be a physical reminder of our suffering and despair, as well as a reminder that God is working something new within us.

Throughout the Lenten Sunday worship services, Pastor Jamie will focus on themes of Sin and Redemption. These two themes are at the heart of our faith, though we often associate sin with just morals and sex, sin is so much more. And while we often think of redemption as only a "meet-your-maker" kind of moment, when sin is tallied up like a ledger, redemption is so much more. Sin and Redemption are at work in us always, and so is God, who brings something new out of the ashes of our old lives.

Celebrations for February 1 to 15



Feb 8 Elaine Sander
Feb 9 Jim Slater
Feb 11 Becky Terpening
Feb 15 Ross Beedle

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

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

Christian Education and Youth — Youth Happens at First

Weekly Devotional



Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

1 Corinthians 8:13

Paul had travelled to Corinth, established a church there, and then left. Some time later, the leaders of the church in Corinth wrote to Paul to ask questions, since he was their teacher, and questions came up after he left. One question that came up was now that people were following Jesus, and now that they no longer believed in the pagan Greek gods, could they just go and eat the foods that were dedicated to those pagan gods since they don't exist anyway.

And Paul replied to this and other questions in a letter we now call First Corinthians. Paul's advice to the Christians in Corinth was to not be a stumbling block for others. That others may see that food and still believe in those gods and think it is okay to be a Christian and still believe in those other gods. Why else would you eat foods that were associated with those pagan gods if not to honor them?

To our modern ears, we don't have any quarrels over foods and their dedication to pagan gods. Sure, there are some who push certain diets, but none of that is about gods, just better eating habits. So we don't take this too seriously. But Paul's advice does still translate to our modern day. There are still things we do as Christians that to non-believers don't make sense. We follow Christ, and belong to God's Kingdom, but salute our national flag and repeat our pledge. We follow Christ, who advocated for the caring of others, yet we hoard and protect our savings over sharing with the less-fortunate. We follow Christ, who championed the earth, and yet we trample on its resources without regard for future generations. Sure, it might be easy to dismiss St. Paul's letter today because we don't fight over food. But when we really pause to think about what we do, and how what we do impacts others — Paul still has a lot to stay to us.

In Peace, Pastor Jamie