



# February

Our Church—This Week  
for the week of  
February 22, 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,

Our Lenten journey has begun. Thank you everyone who has watched the Ash Wednesday worship video, and thank you to everyone who attended our in-person worship yesterday morning. It was a nice day to resume our in-person worship.

The trend of our weather warming up will hopefully continue as we gradually watch all the mountains of snow melt away and the return of green grass and soon our first buds of spring.

Yesterday was also Scout Sunday, and we have four Boy Scouts who are a part of the troop at Kirkwood Methodist: Derek Johnston, Collin Nuckles, Nate and Trace Gallagher. These four participated in the Scout Sunday service at the Methodist church, leading the flag ceremony and sharing what the troop has done over the past year. Scouting for boys and girls makes a huge impact in their lives as they grow up and learn so many valuable lessons that go well beyond the badges on their uniforms.

### **Our Lenten Schedule**

Wednesdays, Feb 24, Mar 3, Mar 10, Mar 17, Mar 24:

7 PM Online World Hunger Bible Study

The Zoom invite link will be included with this email

Sunday, February 28 at 9 AM, In-Person Worship

Holy Week will include:

Sunday, Mar 28: Palm Sunday Worship, in-person, 9 AM

Thursday, Apr 1: Maundy Thursday, online worship only

Friday, Apr 2: Good Friday, online worship only

Sunday, Apr 4: Easter Sunday Worship, in-person, 9 AM

Resources for the online World Hunger Bible study are now available for download on our website. Living the Creed resources for Sundays in Lent are also available for download from our website.

### *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, Rob Kerschke, Gary Gaskill

*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 Bible study shifts from 3 PM to 7 PM for Lent.

Please join us with the link in the email and download the bible study PDF from our website or from the email. See you all Wednesday at 7 PM.

### **Lenten Challenge**

This Lent, we will use resources from the ELCA World Hunger Ministries for our midweek Bible study and for our weekly Living the Creed.

These studies will help us learn more about why hunger is a global crisis and how giving to local and global hunger networks makes a tremendous difference.

You are invited to consider a special Lenten Offering. Challenge yourself to donate an equal amount to both ELCA World Hunger and Jamieson Center. For instance, I am giving \$40 to each ministry. Simply write your checks to the church and designate on the memo line or on your offering envelop where it is designated for. Can First Lutheran contribute \$2000 total to both organizations this season? Let's try.

Thank you to all who have been praying for my nephew, Brendan Kerschke. He was briefly hospitalized after a mental health issue. He is home again. Please pray for his continued good health.

A quick update on my brother-in-law Rob Kerschke. Rob continues to be hospitalized with Covid and pneumonia. He has been transferred out of ICU to a regular room, but continues to be on oxygen and other meds for the pneumonia. He has suffered some lung damage from the Covid, and the doctors are uncertain how permanent that damage is. His wife has recovered at home from her positive Covid diagnosis. Their family needs a lot of continued prayers.

We have added Gary Gaskill to our prayers this week. He was recently diagnosed with a form of Leukemia and is hospitalized in Tampa, FL undergoing treatment. Prayers for Gary and the whole Gaskill family are greatly appreciated.

If you have a prayer you would like to share, or an update for a prayer we have been lifting up, please let Pastor Jamie know, and we can include that in an upcoming weekly newsletter.

## Celebrations for February 15 to 28



Feb 15 Ross Beedle, Scott McClintock  
Feb 17 Keirstyn Johnson, Gary Martin  
Feb 18 Mary Jane Olson  
Feb 20 Tucker Smith  
Feb 25 Bev Millar  
Feb 26 Teresa Miller  
Feb 27 Heidi Niemann  
Feb 28 Connie Larimer  
Feb 29 Graham Johnson



Feb 22 Kenny and Nancy Reynolds

*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



“The God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ...”

Genesis 9:8

God, the creator of all that is, God, the redeemer of all that is, God, the sustainer of all that is, has a unique relationship with all that is. The relationship is based on a covenant. A covenant is not simply a treaty or binding contract. It is a unbreakable promise that God makes. God says to Noah and his sons, as they stand on dry ground after the flood waters have receded, I am making a covenant with you. This is a new thing in the opening chapters of Genesis. God has created a beautiful world, filled it with wonderful creatures, and populated it with free-thinking beings called humans. But something went amiss, and as creation crashed and burned, God decided a do-over was necessary.

But as the flood rages over creation, God realizes this is not the way God wants to be. God doesn't want to set creation in motion and then destroy it whenever God feels creation has gotten out of hand. God wants to love creation fully. God wants to mend creation from within. God wants to value creation beyond any damage that all in creation can wreak upon it.

So, with the greatest mulligan of all time, God stands with Noah and Noah's 3 sons, and God establishes an unbreakable covenant. This covenant is not just with Noah and his 3 sons. This covenant is with all Noah's descendants, all humanity, all animals, all plants, all creepy-crawly things. This covenant tells everyone and everything that God will value creation so much that never again will God destroy it or all that is within it. God's love will always take precedence over God's desire to punish, even when creation wants to hurt God. This covenant sets in motion a series of other covenants that ultimately lead to the covenant God establishes in Jesus Christ. When we see the rainbow in the sky, may we remember the fullness of God's love, which we experience as God's unbreakable promise to mend us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In Peace, Pastor Jamie