



Our Church—This week
for the week of
February 28, 2022

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
Bobbi Nees
(309) 734-5350

Congregation Council

President: Doug Cruce
Vice President: Ray Golden
Secretary: Diane Carlson
Warren Dobry
Ted Hanson
Linda McGuire
Adam Sanberg
Pam Van Kirk
Evelyn Volz

Dear Friends and Family,

The Illinois state mandate for wearing masks indoors is set to expire on Monday, February 28th. Here at First Lutheran, we will also adjust our indoor mask policy from required to encouraged.

Please remember, as we adjust to once again not requiring masks indoors that there are still some who are vulnerable due to being immunocompromised. Also, please remember that with the mask mandate expiring that does not mean the risk of exposure is completely gone.

Worship leaders will continue to wear masks during communion, though it will be optional as you come forward to receive. When attending meetings or coming into the church office, masks will be optional. If you request, the pastor and office staff will wear a mask.

We have been saying for two years now that none of us have ever lived through a pandemic, and for the same two years now we have been wishing we never did. While we are still not completely done with the pandemic, we certainly pray we are one step closer, and we give thanks to God for the Holy Spirit uniting us as a community to work together to get through it all.

Ash Wednesday is March 2nd

Join us for Ash Wednesday worship on Wednesday, March 2nd at 7 PM. We will have a simple service that will be very reflective and quiet, and should only be about 30 minutes.

The congregation council has decided that we will not have midweek worship or evening gatherings during Lent. The midweek Bible study on Wednesdays at 11 AM will continue.

We are waiting until March to decide about midweek services during Holy Week.

Easter Lilies

Pick up an Easter Lily order form in the sanctuary or call the church office to complete your order. This year they are \$8.99. When you order you may indicate if the lily is in memory or in honor of a loved one.



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Sunday, Feb 27	10 AM Sanctuary Worship
Monday, Feb 28	6:30 PM Confirmation
Tuesday, Mar 1	7 PM Naomi Circle
Wednesday, Mar 2	11 AM Bible Study
	7 PM Ash Wednesday Worship

Sunday, Mar 6	10 AM Sanctuary Worship
Monday, Mar 7	9:30 AM Sarah Circle
	6:30 PM Confirmation
	7 PM Building and Grounds
Tuesday, Mar 8	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Mar 9	11 AM Bible Study

Sunday, Mar 13	10 AM Sanctuary Worship
Monday, Mar 14	6:30 PM Confirmation
Tuesday, Mar 15	4:30 PM Day Care and Preschool Board Meeting
Wednesday, Mar 16	11 AM Bible Study

Notice something missing from the calendar? Please contact the church office, and we will add it to next week's newsletter.

Every Wednesday, our Secretary is not in the office. Every Friday is Pastor Jamie's day off



- Feb 28 Connie Larimer
- Feb 29 Graham Johnson
- Mar 2 Maggie Champion
- Mar 2 Dana Jensen
- Mar 6 Conor Damewood
- Mar 7 Dawn Johnson
- Pam Van Kirk
- Mar 9 Helen Babcock
- Mar 13 Joey Slater
- Mar 20 DeeDee Yez
- Mar 25 Heather Ide
- Mar 26 Patricia
- Hackspacher
- Mar 27 Phil Bergren
- Mar 27 Kurt Volz
- Mar 30 Paul Johnson
- Mar 30 Anna Lovdahl
- Apr 4 Marlys Dobry
- Apr 5 Deb Manuel
- Apr 6 April Icenogle
- Apr 7 Fred Burgland
- Apr 10 Trace Gallagher



- Feb 22 Kenny and Nancy Reynolds
- Mar 1 Phil and Judy Bergren
- Mar 11 Cecil and Kay Lovdahl
- Mar 14 Tammy and Jim Slater
- Mar 31 Coach and Elaine Sander
- Apr 2 Don and Kathy Fillman
- Apr 8 Justin and Lena Lafferty
- Apr 25 Todd and Kris Champion
- Apr 28 Ron and Deb Manuel
- May 5 Brenda and Craig Jones
- May 6 Connie and Chuck Larimer
- May 11 Kirk and Ondria Moulden
- May 15 Ted and Shelly Matson
- May 21 Ted and Sue Hanson
- May 22 Butch and Kaye Johnson
- June 01 Rodger and Linda Ellison



Diane Bradley, Matthew Council, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Cassie Jern & Family, Amber Kerr, Julie Kerr, Jaxson, Chris, Pat Root, Ila Roseberry, Charlotte Volz, Norman Worthington, Carolyn Poole, Mary Anne Lovdahl, Eloise Swisher, Cecil Lovdahl, Tad Yarde

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



Lent Sunday 1 March 6

This week in worship

As we begin the season of Lent, we will include more reflective refrains in worship, including beginning each Sunday with “Jesus Remember Me”.

Lent is a penitential season, which means we reflect on our human nature and our separation from God. Yet, Lent is also a hopeful season, as we are preparing to once again hear the story of Jesus’ passion—his death and resurrection—to end that separation and draw us into God’s kingdom forever.

Join us as we begin this season of Lent and share in the hope of all that Christ has done.



The ministry of the church reaches out in many and various ways. This is possible because of the donations of its members. Thank you for your continuing commitment to the ministries of our congregation.

It may feel like not much is happening this spring, but beyond worship, we are hosting the MRHS choir as they prepare for solo and ensemble contest, we are having a mid week Bible study, we continue to raise funds to support local charities. This and so much more make your donations vital to the continuation of our ministries.



Thank you, again, for all your support.

Sunday Worship Helpers

Ash Wednesday, March 2

Usher: Diane Carlson
Acolyte: Nate Gallagher
Reader: Heide Gallagher
Communion Assistant: Kurt Volz
Musician: Janice Algren
Flowers:

March 6

Usher: Linda McGuire
Acolyte: Cohen Anderson
Reader: Wendy Anderson
Communion Assistant: Dee Dee Yez
Musician: Janice Algren
Flowers:

March 13

Usher: Rose Sandstrom
Acolyte: Reese Anderson
Reader: Diane Carlson
Communion Assistant: Steve Erlandson
Musician: Janice Algren
Flowers:

March 20

Usher: Steve Erlandson
Acolyte: Collin Nuckles
Reader: Pam Best
Communion Assistant: Paula Buban
Musician: Janice Algren
Flowers:

New Bulletin Format

Beginning Sunday, March 6th, we will have a new bulletin flyer format. Pastor Jamie and Angela have been experimenting with a new format for a while and are now ready to begin using it.

While still a one-page format, the new sheet will include one announcement of upcoming news item.

The bulletin flyer is always open for revision, so comments will be appreciated.

Augustana College Choir Concert

The Galesburg Community Chorus will host the Augustana College Choir for a concert on Sunday, March 13th at 4:00 PM.

The concert will take place at First Lutheran Church, Galesburg. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for Seniors (60 and older), Students are free.

Fun Church Math

How many days are between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday? Did you just say 40? Well, you are only partly right. The full answer is actually 46. But the church does not count Sundays in Lent. Sundays are always considered little Easters, so in a season of penitence, you do not count the little Easters. Only all the other days. So, Lent is 40 days because Sundays are technically not Lent. Because Church math is way more fun than actual math.

Bible Study

Our Midweek Bible study will continue through the season of Lent. We meet at 11 AM on Wednesdays. We will meet in the Pastor's Study while the MRHS Choir is using the classroom, but we will return to the classroom later in March.

We are currently using a Bible study on the book of Isaiah. All are welcome to join. It is never too late to join the conversation.

Confirmation in Lent

The confirmation class has some exciting classes planned for the season of Lent. We will be learning more about supporting the environment. We will have a field trip to a local wildlife conservation center, go on a hike, build bat houses, and more.

Weekly Devotional



Then I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Daniel 9:3

This week we experience our annual Ash Wednesday worship service. This service is the traditional beginning of the season of Lent. It marks the opening of the 40 days (not counting Sundays) that precede Easter Sunday. The liturgical experiences of Ash Wednesday and Lent are just that—liturgical experiences. Rooted in passages such as the one from Daniel that link sackcloth and fasting and ashes to prayers and supplications, Ash Wednesday and Lent provide a time for our liturgy to be more somber and reflective.

This year, our Ash Wednesday service will not include the traditional imposition of ashes. Instead during that moment, worshippers will receive a piece of black cloth symbolizing sackcloth. Throughout the Old Testament people of faith would wear sackcloth at times of lament, mourning, or repentance. Sackcloth is scratchy, uncomfortable, and generally not fun to wear. But that uncomfortableness is meant to draw our attention away from all distractions and focus on God's presence around us.

This year we continue to lament the problems of the world, for instance the continuing pandemic, the impending war between Russia and Ukraine and its global impact, and divisive politics within our own country. This year we mourn all we have lost, our loved ones, friends and family. This year, we are reminded we still need to repent of all the distractions that keep us turned away from God.

While often the physical touch of ashes on our forehead remind us of our mortality and our need for God, the sackcloth this year will be a physical reminder of all we lament, mourn, and need repentance of. The sackcloth ultimately will remind us of the hope we have in Jesus. For while all we can do for ourselves can be lost in an instant, all that Christ has done for us will last an eternity. And Jesus will cloth us with a holiness and righteousness that can never be taken away. The sackcloth is temporary, the cleansing blood of Christ is forever. Peace, Pastor Jamie