



Our Church—This week  
for the week of  
January 18, 2021

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

116 S. B Street, Monmouth, IL 61462; (309)734-2106  
www.flcmonmouth.org; email: office@flcmonmouth.org



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,

Greetings from Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center in Oregon, IL. This is our church camp. Church camp is primarily associated with summer camp programs for kids. But our church camp also has a number of year-round opportunities. One of these opportunities is for retreats, like the one I am on this week. Yes, I have an agenda and a program I am participating in, but being at the church camp also allows for a different setting, recreational opportunities and a check-in with God that may not happen in my home or in my office.

And this opportunity is not limited to pastors. Families are encouraged to register for retreats at the camp as well. Check out the camp website: LOMC.org, we have a link to it on our church website. Learn more about the opportunities you and your family can participate in at our church camp. Maybe you will find a new way to connect with God on your next visit to LOMC.

### **Online Zoom Congregation Annual Meeting**

Members will receive a letter from council president Rose Sandstrom explaining how we will conduct our congregation annual meeting on January 31st. This will involve both a zoom meeting and a drive-through voting period.

We will have a practice Zoom meeting on Sunday, January 24th at 9 AM. The link will be sent out later this week as a separate email. The link will also be included in the letter Rose sends out.

This practice is for the whole congregation to participate in as it will help council prepare for the regular annual meeting, and it will give members a chance to see what a large group on Zoom will look like. Zoom is an online computer application, but if you do not have online computer capabilities, you can also use your phone to call into the meeting. January 24th will be a great day for you to learn how that works as well.

For more information about our January 31st meeting, please refer to the letter you receive. You can always call the church office or Rose for more questions as well.

### ***Our Stewardship Ministry***



Your gifts make a difference in our community and our world. As the Magi brought their gifts to the newborn Jesus, we bring our gifts to celebrate the fullness of Jesus the Christ.

Stewardship is our shared responsibility in making the ministry of Jesus Christ known in Monmouth and beyond. All that you give is vital to our ministry and is a celebration of your thankfulness to God.



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 students were very excited to return to the preschool and day care this last week. They were really excited, too, to open the gifts and begin playing with their new toys and games.

This center provides such a meaningful experience for these kids, and while it certainly is different having fewer students as a result of the pandemic, the impact remains the same for those who are here. And that impact is a sign of this church's love for the community in continuing to provide such a vital resource.

### **Pastor Jamie out of the office this week**

Pastor Jamie is attending a retreat at our church camp this week. If you need to reach Pastor Jamie, feel free to call, text or email him. When breaks in the retreat allow, he will respond to all messages.

If you need immediate pastoral care, Pastor Katie Gallagher is available. You may call her at 630-200-3288.

### **Online Worship Continues**

The church council decided to maintain our online worship practice as we continue to navigate through the end of this pandemic. The state of Illinois is revising its mitigation plans, but the new mitigations continue to limit indoor gatherings to a maximum of 10 people.

This is a difficult decision, one the council did not come to lightly. There are many in our congregation who are hoping to return to in-person worship and there are many who are being cautious about returning to in-person.

It is important that you know you are being heard, no matter how you feel about gathering in-person. Our council is following the advice from our state health department and recommendations from our synod office.

If you have questions about the decision to remain online with our worship presence, feel free to call Pastor Jamie.

## Celebrations for January 16 to 31



Jan 16 Jared Longtin  
Jan 17 Rose Sandstrom  
Jan 19 Sydney Tate  
Jan 30 Jeremy Bruce, Kay Lovdahl, Melba Matson  
Kristin Wolf  
Jan 31 Evelyn Volz



Jan 18 Delmar and Judy Champion (62 years)

*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

Worship and Music ... Council Rep Jim Johnson

### Specific Elected Committees

Endowment

Memorial

Personnel

Preschool and Day Care Board

Committee being revitalized

Christian Education and Youth — Youth Happens at First



<sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.”

Mark 1:23-24

I had the joy of helping my daughter return to college over the weekend. And during our time together, she was driving me around her college town. We approached an intersection where we were going to turn left. And I told her, you have to use a “Michigan Left” at this corner. For those unfamiliar, a “Michigan Left” is an intersection where you turn right and then use an intentional lane for a U-turn. These are popular in Lower Michigan, especially near Detroit. But there are a few in Heide’s community.

I told her, this is one of those intersections. And she disagreed with me. I knew this intersection well, I knew it was a Michigan Left, and the sign was right in front of us explaining how to turn left. And still, my daughter said, nope, I am going to just turn left in the intersection. Well, then the light turned green and we entered the intersection, all the cars ahead of us went straight ahead and she then saw the sign, she then realized I was correct, and she did not turn left. We drove straight through and found a different way to our destination.

Sometimes this is like our faith life. We miss the signs right in front of us, even as we are plainly being told how Jesus is in our midst. In one of the earliest healing stories in Mark’s Gospel, it is the demon inside a person who recognizes Jesus. And even after the people watch Jesus perform the miracle, they don’t see who he is. Our job is not to be angry at those who do not see Jesus. We are simply to point out how Jesus is active in our midst. Will people always see the signs? No. Will they maybe find another way? More often than not, they will. Do not give up on pointing out how Jesus is found in our midst. It may take a while for all that traffic to clear out ahead of us, but eventually our traveling companions will see it too. Peace, Pastor Jamie