



Our Church—This Week  
for the week of  
January 25, 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,

I hope you all had a chance to watch the worship service that was recorded at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center in Oregon, IL. I had a great time sharing that special ministry center with you all.

On Saturday, the LOMC Board met. My wife currently sits on the LOMC Board. She shared with me that the worship service I recorded at the camp was being shared with all the Board members and that many Board members were sending the link out to their entire email lists.

I never imagined when I decided to record at camp that I would go viral across the state of Illinois, but that is what has happened. The worship service was being shared to promote the camp, and also to be an example for what other congregation pastors can do. They, too, are being invited to LOMC for an opportunity to record worship and share memories of camp. Just goes to show you, that you never know what idea you may have that will inspire others.

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

This Sunday is our January Annual meeting. You have received a letter from our council president explaining the process of our meeting. We will begin the Zoom portion at 9 AM. Pastor Jamie will even open the Zoom room early, for those who would like to gather and greet others online. The drive-through voting time is from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Please pull up to the office/preschool door to receive a ballot and be added to the attendance. You will be asked to pull forward to hand your ballot in at the rear sanctuary building door.

IF you are only able to attend the Zoom portion of the meeting, please do. IF you are only able to attend the drive-through voting portion of the meeting, please do. You do not have to attend both. Your attendance will only be counted once if you attend the Zoom meeting and come to the church for the drive-through voting.

No absentee voting will be accepted, though homebound members who call the church office and request a council member to come to their house between 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM on Sunday will be given the opportunity to vote. Only members who come in the car to the church will be able to vote, we will not hand out ballots for one spouse to vote for another, or a parent to vote for a child.

A reminder phone call from the church will go out this weekend using our new robo-calling system. The Zoom link for the congregation meeting will be emailed on Saturday.

## 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 12 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.

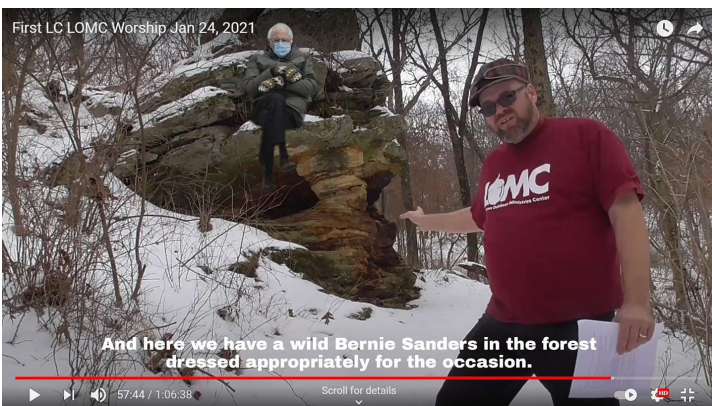


Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders became an internet Meme sensation after the inauguration. A picture of him sitting cross-legged, wearing a heavy coat and big mittens has entered the Meme lexicon in many humorous ways.

Since our Old Testament story from this weekend was from Jonah, I couldn't help but share the Meme with Senator Sanders sitting beneath a tree, much as the prophet Jonah was sitting under a tree at the end of his story.

The second image was created by my daughter's roommate. She inserted Bernie as if he were sitting at Levi's Cave, and then poked a little fun at me not wearing a coat. The caption reads, "And here we have a wild Bernie Sanders in the forest, dressed appropriately for the occasion."

I enjoy all sorts of good-natured political humor, and these two are among the best from this week.



## 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

### Weekly Devotional



Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Psalm 148:7-8

We are anticipating a huge snowstorm tonight. The weather forecasters are predicting anywhere from nothing to more snow than we have ever had before. That's quite the range, I know. But weather forecasting is particularly difficult in naming a snowfall amount. Sure, forecasted numbers range from 3 inches to 6 inches to even as much as 12 inches, but we won't really know until it is over what will come.

The word "snow" appears in the Old Testament 21 times and in the New Testament only twice. In Psalm 148, snow is called upon to praise the Lord alongside sea monsters, fire and hail, and even stormy wind. It is hard to imagine, as we sit in the middle of a potential winter storm, that this dangerous weather could actually praise the Lord. But that's because usually when we deal with storms, we only think of the inconvenience of the storm. Storms delay our getting to places. Storms cancel school. Storms prevent us from getting to work. Storms knock out the electricity and cable and satellite television networks. Storms just totally disrupt our day.

And yet these same storms praise God. Storms wash across the earth, new snow offers a coat of beauty to the earth that lies dormant and browned from the death that was experienced in autumn. Snow blankets the earth and as it melts renews water levels, renewing the soil and preparing it for another planting season that is upcoming. Sure we will all experience back aches from the shoveling, and our hands and feet will get cold standing outside, but if we only look at the inconvenience, we will miss the praise of our creator. And as people of faith, we are called to pay attention to all that praises our creator, even the wonderful new blanket of snow we will all awake to tomorrow morning.

In Peace, Pastor Jamie