



Our Church—This Week
for the week of
May 10, 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
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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,

In the coming weeks, we expect to have announcements regarding our Strawberry Festival, the Prime Beef festival, other familiar summer events, and possible adjustments in worship as Illinois enters first what is being called the Bridge Phase, and then into what is called Phase 5. As we approach the end of the pandemic, the Bridge Phase and Phase 5 are designed to allow increased capacity limits, and eventually do away with mandates on capacity limits. These phases will slowly bring to an end the concept of social distancing as a mandated method for prevention of spreading the virus. And eventually, the mandates for mask wearing will go away as well. As we wait for the CDC and Illinois Department of Health to provide further guidance on the Bridge Phase and Phase 5, we remain committed to the mandates to help reduce the risk of spreading this virus. Thank you for your continued patience. I know we are all ready for resumption of normal life activities. And we are almost there. I remember when I ran a half marathon, and I was so excited to be on the last mile and I wanted to go faster, and my body just simply would not. We want to go faster, but the protocols just won't let us. But you know what, I still made it to the finish line, and we will also make it to the end of this pandemic.

Recognizing Graduates

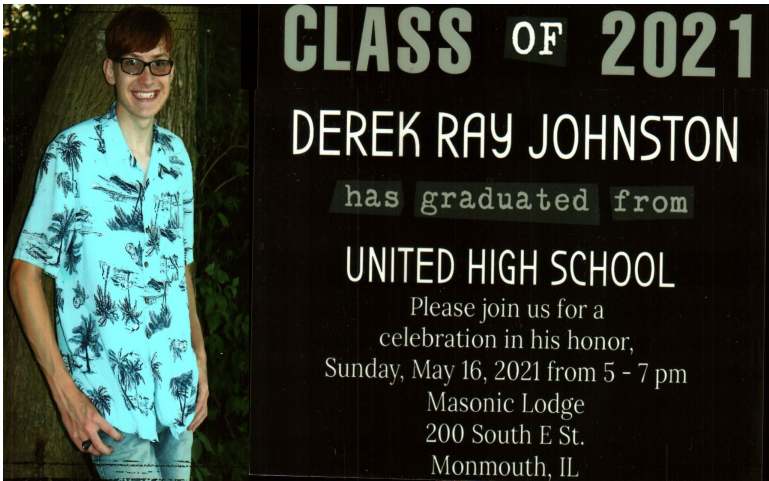
Congratulations to our members who are finishing education milestones this year. Our congregation will recognize these members in worship on Sunday, May 16th. After worship, the congregation council will host a reception in the narthex.

We celebrate with

- * Derek Johnson, United High School graduate
- * Jamie Reynolds, Graduate of Penn Foster College with
Optician Career Diploma and ABO Certified Optician
- * Rachael Nuckles, Master of Arts in Women's History
Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY

If you have a graduate you would like recognized, please contact Pastor Jamie this week.





Celebration of the Life of Kim Raines

Saturday, May 23rd at 1:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Jim Johnson invites you to join with him and the family of his wife, Kim Raines, for a celebration of her life.

The service will include music and reflections from the family as a way to honor her life and celebrate the love she had for so many. A private burial will take place at a later time.

Congregation Meeting

Join us on Sunday, May 23rd for our congregation meeting after worship. We will need quorum in order for this meeting to happen.

This annual meeting will be in-person, we will not have a Zoom option. We will have voting in-person, there will be no drive-through voting.

Please plan on attending worship on Sunday, May 23rd to participate in our annual meeting for the election of council and committee members.

Congratulations

Celebrate with Mark and Ellen Shrader the birth of Sophie Dorothy Shrader

On May 8th.

The proud parents and baby girl are doing great

Our Stewardship Ministry



Your generosity makes our ministry possible.

From Sunday worship, to our online worship presence,

To faith formation events, to quilts that travel around the world, to special events, to countless unseen acts of kindness, and to the church-wide Lutheran ministries.

Thank you for your continued support of our church and for making Christ known through your gifts.

Offerings can be brought to in-person worship and placed in the offering plates, mailed into the church office, or made through our easy automatic withdrawal giving plan. Contact the office for more information.

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

Needing to be revitalized

Christian Education and Youth

Vision and Purpose Thank You Note

From Betty Bruyn:

Thank you. The Quilters would like to thank everyone that donated money so we can keep making them for Lutheran World Relief. We were given \$351.51. Like I said it takes many hands to make a quilt. Now your hands are helping us too.

Sanctuary Flowers



Contact the office for information regarding the availability of dates to provide for Altar Flowers. More information is available on our website.



Vision and Purpose Giving for May To Support the St. Jude Memphis to Peoria Run Wendy Anderson

Dear Friends and Family,

I ran across a post on social media not too long ago that read, “There’s of course a lot happening in the world right now...spoiler alert: there will ALWAYS be a lot happening, it’s called life”. With that being said, I do hope you are doing well and successfully juggling all life is offering you in this moment of time.

I’m writing to you today in hopes that you can juggle one more thing in this moment of time. Although I am still undecided on whether I’ll board Blue 8 (my M2P RV) on Tuesday, July 13th or I’ll run another year virtually, I’m thankful to have the opportunity to participate in my 5th Memphis to Peoria St. Jude run (the 40th Annual St. Jude Memphis to Peoria run). COVID put a damper on a lot of things; however, it didn’t put an end to childhood cancer. The overall mission of the St. Jude Runs remains the same. We will continue to raise awareness and funds until no child is impacted by cancer.

Mike McCoy, St. Jude board member and run organizer, says every year that this is a fundraising event, not a running event, and this could not be more true. When I first started running for St. Jude, I will be completely honest, my mindset was focused on the number of miles I ran each year. Now, my mindset has shifted to raising more and more money for the patients and families of St. Jude. Each year I want to beat my fundraising efforts from the year before. So although I don’t know exactly where I will log my miles for my 5th year of M2P, I do know exactly where the money I raise will go. St. Jude patients, families, staff, doctors, researchers, etc. need us more than ever right now. No family ever receives a bill for services and treatment received at St. Jude because of supporters like you and me.

I know this moment in life might be difficult, but we have an opportunity to focus on a good thing we CAN do. I’m reaching out asking you to join me yet again in making a difference in the lives of St. Jude families. If you are interested in supporting St. Jude via my 2021 M2P run, please send a check made out to me or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital to 450 S Hall, Roseville, IL, 61473, visit my online fundraising center at <http://peoriaruns.stjude.org/wendyanderson>, VenMo @Wendy-Anderson-611, PayPal via my email, wndylu2@gmail.com, or give me a call, 309.221.8219, and I’d be happy to come pick up your donation. Together, I believe we can make a difference.

Thank you for your time and support.

Wendy Anderson



Celebrations for through May 31



May 11 Ella Bergren
May 15 Melissa Johnston
May 16 Shelly Golden
May 18 Todd Champion
May 19 Carl Hamberg
May 22 Linda Ellison
Lorene Nelson
May 25 Heide Gallagher
Karen Heap
May 26 David Sandstrom
May 27 Charlotte Sanberg
May 28 Mari Hauge
Lena Johnson
Karen Ogorzalek
Nancy Reynolds

May 29 Kaylee Teel
Michael Blaesing
May 31 Dean Sandstrom
Tammy Slater



May 11 Kirk and Ondria Moulden
May 15 Ted and Shelly Matson
May 21 Ted and Sue Hanson
May 22 Butch and Kaye Johnson

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

Please Keep In Your Prayers

Bradley Anderson,
Kim Anderson,
Beckie Bean,
Josie Blake,
Diane Bradley,
Matthew Council,
Nancy Dowell,
Gary Gaskill,
John Ellison,
Linda Ellison,
Dave Erlandson,
Jim Erlandson,
Michael Hackspacher
Cassie Jern & Family,
Graham Johnson,
Joy Johnson,
Craig Jones,
Amber Kerr,
Julie Kerr,
Jaxson,
Chris,
Anna Lovdahl,

Pat Root,
Ila Roseberry,
Charlotte Volz,
Evelyn Volz,
Norman Worthington

*Please let the church
office know any up-
dates that are needed
to our prayer list.*



Weekly Devotional



Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Psalm 32:11

In our Bible study, we have been looking at the Book of Acts. We have been learning about how the early disciples began this movement that today we call Church. Back then, they had nothing to start with. They had no buildings, no system for a leadership structure, and no legal standing to avoid taxes or be protected under Roman law. Much of that we take for granted today. We have a wonderful edifice, in which we come to give praise to God and to learn about God's Word. We have a system of leadership, with a council, pastor, musicians, and bishops and so forth. We have legal standing within our state and nation.

So, how did these disciples begin this movement of church if they didn't have anything we take for granted today? Well, one of the first things they had was joy. They had the joy of being together and being in God's presence. This joy guided the way they greeted one another, lifted songs, fervently prayed for one another, and sought guidance from the Holy Spirit who would help shape the direction of this burgeoning Church movement.

What is our source of joy today? Do we gather with a sense of joy? Or do we gather with a sense of obligation and a feeling of self-righteousness or even indignation at those who don't join us? See, the lesson from Acts teaches us that we don't need a spectacular edifice in which to worship, we don't need organizational flow-charts delineating tasks, we don't need constitutional rights, none of that makes us church. The earliest disciples only had joy in each other's company, and joy in God's presence.

If your motivation for coming to church is any reason other than Joy, take some time to read through the book of Acts. Hear how joy motivated the early disciples as they shared their possessions and resources for all; listen to the joy of serving the community as needs rose quickly; feel the joy as they sang songs in prison, in public spaces, and in their homes. Then be ready to express your joy as you join your community of believers here.

In peace, Pastor Jamie