



Our Church—This Week  
for the week of  
May 17, 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  
@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  
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,

The next phase of recovery from the pandemic is slowly coming. The CDC announced new guidelines that masks are now optional for those who are fully vaccinated. The State of Illinois will be adjusting its executive orders to match with this guidance, and while that isn't fully official yet, here at First Lutheran, we made the choice to begin this past weekend with optional masks for those who are fully vaccinated.

You are on your honor to wear a mask if you have not yet received the vaccine. It is your choice to still wear a mask, even if you have the vaccine. The mask is only one step of reducing the risk of spreading the virus. Staying socially distanced, getting the vaccine, increasing sanitation of surfaces and an emphasis on washing hands are other ways we reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

The Worship Assistant and I will continue to wear our masks during distribution of communion so that all may feel comfortable coming forward to receive the sacrament. We are doing extremely well as a community caring for each other, and providing best practices to maintain a healthy community. I know we will continue with these best practices until the pandemic is completely declared over.

### **Upcoming Summer Church Events**

The Congregation Council met for its regular monthly meeting last Tuesday. We approved going forward with a Strawberry Festival in July; we approved having an outdoor worship/picnic event at Lake Warren in August. We approved the possibility of returning to the Prime Beef Festival with our food tent.

Planning for these events is now underway. A date will be announced later for the Strawberry Festival and Lake Warren Worship/Picnic. The Prime Beef Festival is officially scheduled for this September by the county, we will be seeking input from our planning team for this food tent to determine if we will go forward with it once more.

All plans are subject to the projected path of recovery from the pandemic, and that there are no set-backs in the path of recovery.

### **Celebration of the Life of Kim Rains**

**Saturday, May 22nd at 1:00 PM in the sanctuary.**

Jim Johnson invites you to join with him and the family of his wife, Kim Rains, 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.

Our slate of candidates include:

Council—Jim Johnson (2nd term); Pam Van Kirk (1st term), Ray Golden (1st term)

Endowment committee—Sue Hanson (2nd term), Dennis Mann

Nominating Committee—Connie Larimer, Paula Buban

Memorial Committee—Nancy Reynolds (2nd term)

### **Thank you to all outgoing committee and council members**

Thank you especially to Rose Sandstrom and Steve Erlandson who complete their 2 terms on the church council. The entire council has worked tirelessly to help us through the pandemic. Steve with his work on our Building and Grounds committee and Rose as our Council president have both gone above and beyond many times to help our congregation through these difficult days.

### ***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

### A Thank You from Anna Lovdahl

Thank you to all of those who have prayed for me, made phone calls, sent e-mails, texts, flowers & visits. They lifted my spirits & I appreciate them all. Truly I am blessed to be a part of our church family.

God be with you all,  
Anna Lovdahl

### 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](mailto: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 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 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,

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



And when the LORD your God gives them over to you and you defeat them, then you must utterly destroy them. Make no covenant with them and show them no mercy.

Deuteronomy 7:3

There are some very difficult passages in the Bible. A passage like this one from the Old Testament when God is giving a command to Israel to wipe out whole nations and tribes of people that live where the Promised Land is. This is complicated because it goes against everything we believe about God today. God is a loving, forgiving God, who is God of all peoples, not just one tribe or nation. God is merciful, compassionate, and slow to anger. Yet this passage stands in harsh contrast.

We might dismiss it as, well, that is just the God before Jesus. That somehow God changed when Jesus was born. We might dismiss it as a spiritual message, not literally meaning destroying the people themselves but the sin God opposed that they lived with. (I just read an article that used that argument.) But is it so easily dismissed? Especially when violence in the modern nation of Israel has ramped up once more. Rockets pound the neighborhoods where Palestinians live. Men, women and children are being killed. It sure looks like ethnic cleansing. It sure has the feel of a modern people trying to finish a God given command from the Old Testament.

One Palestinian woman placed a message on social media that she was gathering her children into her bedroom, so that if a rocket hit their house and killed them, they would all die together, and not have part of the family survive with the pain of loss. This is heartbreaking. This is devastating. And while there is sacred text saying God once commanded this very type of thing, we must stop and ask ourselves—what are we doing to each other? Whether it is Israel versus Palestine, gang violence in major US cities, ethnic cleansing in Africa, and the list goes on.

When we come across these complicated passages of the Bible, we cannot simply dismiss them; neither can we simply follow them at face value. We must wrestle with the identity of God, the word of God, and the desires of God made known in Jesus Christ. And then we must advocate for peace, that none fear a rocket killing their entire family, that none fear walking down the street, that all may know and trust a secure world.

Inpeace, Pastor Jamie