



Our Church—This Week
for the week of
May 24, 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,

And just like that, the unofficial start to summer is here. This Memorial Day weekend, we remember all who served our nation and gave the ultimate sacrifice. The weather is warming up. School is out for the summer. And grills will be cooking excellent meals at homes all over the place.

Summer time is usually a quieter time at church, but for our congregation we are looking forward to resuming activities that have been on hold due to the pandemic. And while we are anxious to rush into these events, due diligence and planning takes time and patience. It will be a joy to share a strawberry dessert with everyone once more. It is going to be wonderful to be back at Lake Warren and celebrate the mysteries of God in that beautiful outdoor location.

Keep following along in our weekly newsletter for updates on these events and everything else we have planned for this summer. And check out the new Page 2 with a list-calendar of weekly events, a new column for birthday and anniversary celebrations as well as our prayer list.

Congregation Meeting Updates

At our May Congregation meeting, we heard updates on our Capital Fund Repairs, the north steps are done, the sanctuary door projects is done, and the tuck pointing is continuing. We have a new project to update the education building per a fire marshal report, to keep the day care open. Final bids are still being gathered, but financing resources are already available to cover this.

We thanked outgoing council members Steve Erlandson and Rose Sandstrom. We elected the new slate of council and committee members. The transition on council will occur at the June meeting and new officers will be elected at that meeting.

The 2020 Annual report is complete, now that our transition to a new financial company is complete. If you would like a copy, please contact the office.

The date for the Strawberry Festival is still pending. On August 8, we will return to Lake Warren for an outdoor service and picnic, details to be announced soon. And we are seeking input to decide if we will go forward with a food tent at the Primebeef Festival which returns this September.

We do hope to return to a 2-worship service schedule. We are waiting before returning to the chapel for all social distance restrictions to be lifted, and also for weekly worship attendance at 9 AM to be averaging 80.



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Tuesday, May 25 6:30 PM Bible Study,
Fellowship Room

Sunday, May 30 9 AM worship

Monday, May 31 Memorial Day
Office Closed,

Tuesday, June 1 Our Church-This Week email
Worship video link email
6:30 PM Bible Study,
Fellowship Room

Sunday, June 6 9 AM worship

Monday, June 7 7 PM Building and Grounds
Committee
Fellowship Room

Tuesday, June 8 7 PM Council Meeting
Fellowship Room

Sunday, June 13 9 AM worship

Tuesday, June 15 6:30 PM Bible Study
Fellowship Room

Friday June 18 to Saturday, June 19
Synod Assembly

Sunday, June 20 9 AM Worship

Sunday, June 20 (afternoon) to Saturday, June 26
Pastor Jamie on Vacation

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.*



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

Jun 2 Alexia Golden
Jarrod Hippen
Susie Jurgens

Jun 6 Rose Youngquist

Jun 11 Wendy Anderson

Jun 13 Jason Spanhook

Jun 1 Rodger and Linda
Ellison

Jun 4 Gary and Judy
Sanberg

Jun 7 Dennis and Becky
Terpening

Jun 8 Ben and Jenny
Sanberg

Jun 11 David and DeeDee
Yez

Jun 12 Neal and Jackie
Heerwagen

Jun 13 Michael and Barb
Pearson

Jun 14 Doug and Kathi
Cruce
Rich and Nancy
Hanson

Jun 15 Rob and Tammy
Ravel



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 updates that are needed to our prayer list.

Vacation Bible School

This summer's VBS is hosted by Faith United Presbyterian Church and will be from Sunday, June 27 to Thursday, July 1.

First Lutheran Church has been asked to provide these items:

- 10 pair new flip flops any size (for recreation game)
- 2 boxes 5 oz. bathroom cups (100 in box)
- 5 rolls paper towel
- 5 hand sanitizers
- Monetary donations to cover costs

Please have these items to the church office by Sunday, June 20th. Thank you for all your help in providing for this community VBS this year.

May Vision and Purpose Giving

The May Vision and Purpose Giving supports Wendy Anderson as she runs with the Memphis to Peoria Run to help St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

You can donate through our Vision and Purpose Giving offering bins as you enter church. You can also support Wendy directly by sending a check made out to Wendy or to 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.

Thank you for your generous support of this annual fundraiser. Thank you for all your generosity done in the name of our Lord.

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

Illinois Phase 5

Illinois has used a phased approach to return to pre-pandemic conditions. Phase 5 is the final of these phases. Phase 5 will mean there will be no more social distancing restrictions and no mask restrictions.

Phase 5 is scheduled to begin on June 11th. Currently, our state is in a “bridge phase” which is about increasing capacity limits, and eliminating masks for those who are vaccinated.

As our congregation prepares for Phase 5, the pastor and worship assistant will continue to wear masks while serving communion. After June 11th, we will remove masks and gloves for serving. We will also eliminate the staging signs on the floor. We will maintain a short distance between receiving the bread and the wine, for those who still choose to step aside to consuming.

We will resume in the fall having a once a month communion at the altar railing. Other aspects of worship that we are familiar with, like canticles and the return of hymnals to the pews will begin slowly happening as is appropriate for our worship settings. If you have any questions about feeling comfortable in our worship space, please talk with Pastor Jamie.

Tuesday Bible Study

Join us Tuesday, May 25th at 6:30 PM for our weekly Bible study. This week we are looking at Acts chapters 8 and 9 which have two fascinating stories. Philip is suddenly whisked away from one location to another to evangelize a traveling Ethiopian. Saul is on his way to Damascus, when he receives a vision of the Lord which changes his entire life. Join us as we learn more about how these stories impact our faith today.

Sanctuary Flowers



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

Weekly Devotional



The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:13

Every worship service we open with this greeting, which ironically is actually a closing statement from St. Paul in his second letter to the church in Corinth. We open with this statement as it draws us immediately into the mystery of God's identity and the very presence of God which envelopes us in our worship experience. This Sunday our liturgical calendar marks a special occasion for us to celebrate the Holy Trinity, this mysterious identity of God.

It is mysterious in this way: Sure, scripture identifies God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Sure, there are scripture verses that even tell us to do things in this name, like Matthew 28:19 when Jesus says this is the name we are to baptize in. Yet what scripture does not do is give us a clear understanding of what this identity means.

The only way we have language to understand the mystery of the Trinity is theologians have given us language. Yet this language is incomplete. How do we really capture with our limited words that the Father is the Son is the Spirit, that Jesus was not exclusively the Son, and yet the Father is different, and the Spirit is sent later. Certainly no one single half page devotional will unravel the full mystery either. So, for all the confusion that the Trinity is, we will leave it as just that—a confusing mystery.

We confess that God is known by the names Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We confess this is one God, not three. That these three “persons” are not individuals, but the same. And we worship this One God who has been present throughout all of creation, salvation and sanctification. And while it may not make full sense, and while our way of wanting to express what this all means may sometimes fall short, in the end, the mystery of God may not need to be solved. As long as we realize it comes down to one simple word. Love. If we understand nothing else, may we understand that God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—loves the entirety of creation and the entire human population within creation. That includes you, that includes people like you, that includes people very much different from you. And when we begin to love as God loves, we realize we do not need to solve the mystery of the Trinity. We simply get to worship and praise the Trinity.

In peace, Pastor Jamie