



Our Church						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>This Week</i>						



2020

## 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,

Our region of Illinois has joined the rest of Illinois in dealing with certain mitigations to stem the rising Covid-19 cases. As of Nov 2, gatherings up to 50 are still permissible, even as we see local dining establishments have to close to indoor serving. I hope you are finding ways to support our local businesses during this difficult time.

What this means for our congregation is that we will continue our in-person worship. If the state imposes further restrictions, limiting gatherings to 10 people, we may have to revisit this. But for now, we will continue in-person worship and sharing our worship video for all those at home.

Please continue to wear your mask when you are in public, avoid large gatherings, and wash your hands frequently.

We will get through this pandemic together.

### **What's Happening at Church?**

Weekly "Our Church—This Week" newsletters have become our primary communication with congregation members and friends. We have been using weekly newsletters since March as a way to adapt to sometimes rapidly changing news that impacts our ministry. Our current format newsletter been 2-front/back sheets of letter size paper. This has been emailed on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Weekly 'Worship Notes' have been used to accompany our weekend worship ministry since we returned to in-person worship, as a way to reduce passing paper out in worship and to give folks at home the choice to print the items we send out. Worship Notes is a single double sided page, but comes with a printout for a bulletin flyer, a Living the Creed at-home activity, and the readings and prayers of intercession. This has been emailed on Fridays.

Email has been our primary connection with all these resources. We know some members prefer to receive this information by mail, and we have been sending out to many members each week. If you have been receiving these updates by email but would prefer to receive a print copy in the mail, please let the office know. We will gladly add you to our physical mailing list.

All seven pages are bundled and mailed on Fridays. Throughout November we will be reviewing our weekly communication as throughout the pandemic we have made minor tweaks to find the best way to share what is happening at church. If we choose additional tweaks, we will begin with Advent. If you have any questions about how the church communicates during this pandemic, please feel free to contact Pastor Jamie. This is an opportunity for conversation, and Pastor Jamie is always open to good conversation.

### *Our Stewardship Ministry*

Throughout November, we will be inspired by members sharing reflections on stewardship as we prepare to offer our pledges for the coming year.

Thank you for all your generosity that keeps our ministry happening. May the stories you hear this month inspire you to prayerfully consider growing in your giving so the ministry of First Lutheran Church will remain strong for the years to come.



### **Vision and Purpose Giving**

Our November Vision and Purpose Giving will support our ministry to the students at the Monmouth Roseville School District alternative school.

We are collecting the following items to provide for students. Cash donations in our Vision and Purpose giving buckets are also appreciated.

Toothbrush/toothpaste/toothbrush cover, face cleanser, soap, disposable razors, shaving cream, hand sanitizer, nail clippers/emory boards, lip balm, comb/brush, shampoo, stocking caps, socks, gloves, cereal bars, fruit snacks, or other similar non-perishable food items.

Your generosity will be a blessing for these students. Thank you.



We continue our midweek Zoom Bible Study this week Wednesday at 3 PM

Join us through the Zoom link included with the email, as we continue our study of the Gospel of Mark.

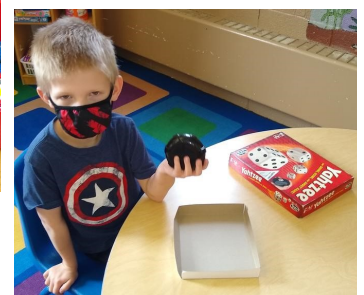
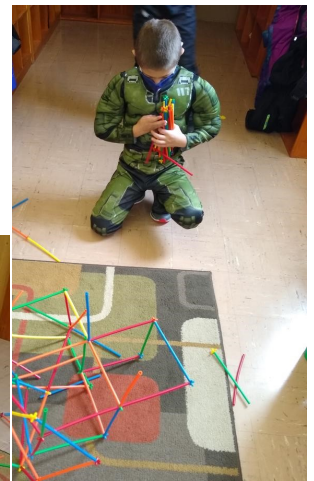


### **Lutheran Day Care and Preschool**

A ministry of First Lutheran Church

Bobbi Nees, director

Check out some pictures from our day care kids have Halloween fun





November 4 Christa Waller  
 November 5 Cameo Johnson  
 November 7 Lorna Utter



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, Jim Johnson, Kay and Glenn Bailey, Vickie Feehan, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson and Sgt. Lacey Elliott, who continues to serve our country

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



Sunday, November 8, 2020

Season of Creation

This week we will continue with our Season of Creation as we explore God as creator in land and prairie.



Our Living the Creed PDF, which represents our at-home Sunday school, will lead us on an exploration of prairie lands and how this ecosystem cries out for God's co-creators (that's us) to care for what God's divine creative powers first gave us—a world to live and play in.



Our community continues to grieve the passing of Kim Rains last week.

At this time, the family is choosing not to hold a service or gathering. Donations are requested for the American Heart Association. Donations given to the church will be directed there, per the wishes of Jim Johnson.

Please continue to hold Jim and all of Kim's family in your prayers as they deal with this heavy grief.



Christmas Poinsettia donations are now being accepted.



Send in your donation for what you might otherwise spend on a poinsettia. Tell us who it is in honor of or in memory of. We will have a colored poinsettia page posted on our Narthex glass wall for you.

Donations are going to the Warren County Ministerial Association Emergency Aid fund, administered through Jamieson Center. We will be accepting poinsettia donations until the end of December.

Are you ready to "Light a Candle"? This Advent season we will Light a Candle for hope, peace, love and joy—expressions of faith we desperately need to have strengthened during this difficult pandemic time.

Perhaps you would be willing to share a reflection on one of these themes. Please let Pastor know, and you may just yourself included in a special way through our Advent wreath lighting in the season. Volunteers are needed for sharing a brief reflection as we light our way to Christmas.

Are you open to saying the Lord's Prayer on camera? Let Pastor know, these videos will be another special part of our Advent and Christmas worship experiences.

# Youth Happens at First

This week we will try another Zoom meeting at 7 PM on Wednesday. Let Pastor know if you are able to attend this week.

We will also make plans for another “Break from Zoom” activity.

Parents of our youth ages Kindergarten to College age open the Youth Happens newsletter that comes with this Our Church—This Week for more information. The Zoom link will be included with the email.

## 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



The earth is the LORD's and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths.

Psalm 24:1-2

Farmlands are being harvested as our farmers work tirelessly to bring in this year's crop. New roads are being paved as another construction season winds down. Fall gardening is a task of raking away the old and preparing for a new bloom in the spring. All our efforts give the earth shape and form and color. And all our efforts sometimes lull us into believing the world is our own creation. It is what we have chosen to make of it. We decide where the bulbs go, where the perennials and annuals are planted. We decide the crops and we work the soil with our skill and knowledge. Our urban planners design the roads and craft the cityscapes that are our homes.

And in the midst of all that we control about our environment, we can easily overlook one simple thing. God is creator. We are merely co-creator. That is to say all that we see and live in is first and foremost God's creation. We are gifted with the ability to share in the shaping of our environment, but the environment is God's. We, as co-creators, are really just stewards of what belongs to God.

What does it mean when we remember we are stewards of what belongs to God? It might mean we are prayerful as we consider the natural resources that we use and abuse. It might mean we are faithful as we recycle, reuse and reduce. It might mean we give thanks before heading into the field to reap the bounty God's creation provides. It might mean we pause and consider the larger ramifications of the next urban project and civil engineering feat.

Being a steward of what belongs to God should not be an after-thought. It should be our fore-thought. In all we do, in all we use, in all we care for, our faith teaches us to remember that it is all first a gift from God and we are mere stewards of it. Embrace this calling. Embrace this role as co-creator with God, for the earth is all God's and everything in it.

In Peace,

Pastor Jamie