



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,

The continuing pandemic is impacting our homelife once again as we approach holidays and are being encouraged to avoid the large family gatherings many of us are accustomed to. What this pandemic cannot do is prevent us from giving thanks to God for all things, including the safety for our community in such a time as this.

This Sunday, our worship will include a Thanksgiving litany. Thanksgiving Day is next week Thursday, and it is right that we pause to give thanks to God. So, whether you join us for in-person worship on Sunday, Nov 22 or whether you watch the video of our worship, just know that the pandemic can never stop us from giving thanks to the Almighty.

### **Two mailings to members**

Church members will receive two letters in the mail from the church this week and next.

The first letter will be a "mail-in" congregational meeting vote request. We have explained in previous newsletters that the Council has recommended the congregation adjust the constitution to reallocate interest funds from our endowment fund. The letter will once again explain the reason for this. Each voting member in your household is eligible to complete the postcard and return to the church office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Council president Rose Sandstrom.

The second letter you will receive will be our annual stewardship pledge campaign. The finance/stewardship committee is meeting this week Tuesday to finalize this letter and prepare the pledge card. When you return your pledge card, our committee will be able to make sure we are projecting the appropriate income to meet our projected expenses for the fiscal year 2021. When this pledge card letter comes, you are simply asked to either mail the card to the office or return it with your offering if you attend in-person worship.

Thank you for attending to both of these letters in a timely matter when you receive them.

### ***Our Stewardship Ministry***

This month we have heard wonderful messages about stewardship from Gary Martin and Gary Sanberg.



Join us this Sunday as we hear another message about stewardship, and prepare ourselves to commit another year's pledge to the ongoing ministry of First Lutheran Church.

Members should soon expect to receive by mail 2021 pledge cards. Please return these within a week so our Finance team can properly prepare the church budget for 2021.

### **Vision and Purpose Giving**

It is not too late to 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.

### **Home Communion Kits**

**Still available**



**"Given for you."**

Communion is at the heart of our worship experience with God, the taste of Jesus' body and blood through bread and wine draw us closer to the reign of God. Yet the pandemic continues to keep many safely away from worship. If you would like a home communion kit, please call Pastor Jamie. You will receive all you need to participate in communion at home, including a prayer written by Pastor Jamie, for how to connect with the sacrament properly.

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



A ministry of First Lutheran Church

Bobbi Nees, director

### **A message of Thanks for our Teachers**

As our minds continue to grapple with the ongoing pandemic, one easily overlooked aspect of community life is our teachers. Our teachers have had to very quickly learn new ways of teaching, often learning the technology as fast as their students can teach them. Our teachers are facing pressures from their students' home-life factors which teachers cannot control, to the pressure of still trying to provide the high quality education we have come to expect from both Monmouth Roseville School District and United School District.

Let's start a greeting card campaign of support for our teachers. Find a greeting card at a store or create your own, send greeting cards to our local schools. If you don't know a teacher by name, well, address it to the entire faculty and ask the card be posted in the teacher lounges.

Consider Lincoln Elementary, Harding Elementary, Central Intermediate, Roseville Jr High, MR High School, our alternate school.

Also, the United District schools: United West Elementary, United North Elementary, United Jr High, United High School.

For addresses, you can go to the district websites:

<https://www.u304.org/>

<https://www.mr238.org/>

Or Contact the church office, and we can get the addresses for each of the schools to you.

Showing our appreciation of the teachers goes a long way to encourage our teachers during this difficult time.



November 17 Sheri Carlson  
 November 19 Jan Martin  
 November 22 Delmar Champion  
 November 22 Jack Coombes



November 16 Mark and Karen Ogorzalek



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, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council, Sara Johnson 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 22, 2020

Season of Creation

We finish our brief 4-week theme of the Season of Creation this upcoming Sunday with an exploration of Rivers and Streams. In our own area, the Mighty Mississippi River governs the waterways. This river has been a source of inspiration to Indigenous People, European settlers, and modern day Illinoisians and Iowans and so many more who explored its course. Join us Sunday as we discover The Creator in and through our sources of water.

Our Living the Creed PDF this Sunday will give us a chance to ride a raft with Huckleberry Finn and Mark Twain once again. Learn about the Mighty Mississippi and some of the rivers that feed into it creating the most iconic of all American Rivers.



Are you making plans for Christmas Eve? We are. On Thursday, December 24th at 4 PM, our congregation will gather for a brief outdoor hymn festival and reading of the Christmas story. A worship video complete with special music will be available for viewing on Christmas Eve as well. More information will follow as we get closer to this important holiday.



Christmas Poinsettia donations are now being accepted.

Send in your donation for what out 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.



## New Flooring in Basement Fellowship Hall

Our basement is getting a fresh look. Preparations are being made now for the new floor which will be installed the first week of December.

We once again thank the family of Bill Root for the generous estate gift that makes this possible.



We continue our midweek Zoom Bible Study this week Wednesday at 3 PM. Link included in our weekly 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



Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

John 19:33

One more week of the Liturgical Year, before we begin anew with the start of Advent on November 29th. Yes, November 22nd is the final Sunday of one liturgical year, and then we start all over with a new liturgical year. The final Sunday of each Liturgical year is called Christ the King Sunday. This is a Sunday when we acknowledge that we are in God's creative movement that leads to an ultimate moment with Christ as King of all God's creation.

The language of Christ the King Sunday sometimes fools us into thinking that Christ is not yet the King, that this is a designation that we are waiting to happen in the future. But Christ the King Sunday really recognizes that reality that Christ is King today. We are not waiting for a final moment. Christ's death and resurrection were the coronation moments for Jesus, and Christ has been King ever since that moment.

Another aspect of Christ the King Sunday where language trips us up is the very word of King. We often think of Kings in military terms. Kings are conquerors, kings dispense judgement and decree how life is to be lived by all who live unwillingly under their reign. Jesus as King is so very different, it can take volumes of written words to define. But let's start with this word: Servant. Jesus as King is a Servant. Jesus as King is one who feeds the hungry, instead of relying on the hungry to feed him. Jesus as King clothes the naked, instead of prancing around in the finest clothes of the realm. Jesus as King dispenses mercy on those who have been judged, instead of piling further judgement on an already guilty soul.

As we approach the end of this liturgical year, and celebrate Christ the King, one final way to reconsider this day is to see it not as the end, but the beginning. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate the ministry of Jesus, we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus, because Jesus is King. This is not our end. This is our beginning. May this new beginning carry us with great peace and confidence in our faith as we enter this new year.

In Peace,

Pastor Jamie