



Our Church—This Week
for the week of
November 23, 2020

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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,

The ongoing pandemic has changed the way we are gathering, once again. This is impacting not only in-person worship, but holiday shopping and family gatherings as well. But if there is one message of the Christmas season we must cling to, it is that light always conquers darkness.

There is an end in sight for this pandemic. There is a time when we will be able to gather normally once more. As we wait for that time, cherish the blessings we have, give thanks in all circumstances as St. Paul advises, and remember Jesus said, he is with us to the very end. And when Jesus says he is with us, he is right where we are—in our homes, waiting to gather with family and friends once more—Jesus is with us in this very pandemic—Jesus is with us in our impatience—and, Jesus is with us as we worship in new and different ways.

What do the mitigations for Illinois mean for our congregation?

Our in-person worship is currently suspended until at least middle of January. The council will re-evaluate our situation at the January council meeting and determine based off of CDC and Illinois Department of Health guidance when it will be safe to return to in-person worship.

Gatherings at the church are currently on hold. If you participate in a group and would like to use the church, please make your reservation directly with Pastor Jamie.

The basement fellowship hall is currently unusable as it is being prepared for the new carpeting which will be installed after December 6th. Even once that work is complete, groups/families wishing to use the fellowship hall must contact Pastor Jamie in advance.

If a reservation is granted, there is no food service allowed at this time. Please ask Pastor Jamie any questions you would like regarding this.

Also, if you have something to bring to or pick up from the church, please call the office first. Either Angela or Pastor Jamie can meet you at the door to ensure a safe exchange.

Our Stewardship Ministry

Thank you to Gary Martin, Gary Sanberg, Ben Sanberg, and Doug Cruce for sharing stewardship messages during November worship services.



You should have received a pledge card by mail. Please return this by mail to the church office by December 6th.

If you have any questions about your giving, please feel free to contact Gary Martin, the chair person of our finance/stewardship committee.

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/emery 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."

As we enter a new period of being away from the sanctuary, if you would like a home communion kit, please contact Pastor Jamie.

Kits are available to keep in your home. They come with all you need to set up an appropriate space for the sacrament, a printout of a brief communion at-home liturgy, and, once a month Pastor will bring new bread and grape juice.

Lutheran Day Care and Preschool



A ministry of First Lutheran Church

Bobbi Nees, director

A message from Anna Lovdahl

Thank You to everyone who has remembered me in prayer and with cards. I really appreciate & am thankful for my FLC family. Here is an update on my condition: I'm scheduled to have TAVR heart surgery to replace my Aortic Valve at St. Francis in Peoria on Tuesday, Dec. 1st. I will be hospitalized for a day or so, depending on my recovery, & then sent home to recuperate. Please continue praying for me & pray for the doctors & nurses who will be taking care of me.

God bless you all.

Anna Lovdahl



One question on everyone's mind right now is probably how will the church celebrate Christmas Eve. At this time, we are planning a 4 PM Christmas Eve Outdoor Hymn Sing. We are waiting on further guidance from the CDC and Illinois Department of Health before we change our plans.

This 4 PM Outdoor Hymn sing will include the singing of 5 favorite Christmas Hymns, Silent Night complete with a candle for you to take home, and hot chocolate and candy canes. We will gather on the front steps of the church building at 4 PM and hear the Good News that Jesus is born, and then sing. A worship video with sermon and additional special music will be available on our website that night.

Prayers for good weather, and for good advice for gathering safely as a community, are appreciated.

Celebrations for the week of Nov 23 to Nov 30



November 23 Jenny Sanberg
November 25 Ted Matson
November 28 Ray Golden
November 29 Pat Root
November 30 Glenna Martin, Judy Sanberg



November 21 Ross and Mary Beedle

A special birthday greeting goes to Pat Root who celebrates 91 years on November 29th. Pat would appreciate cards, please help recognize this milestone birthday. If you need Pat's home address, please contact the church office.

ADVENT



Advent Worship begins Sunday, November 29th.

We will have a special sermon given by the missionaries Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich.

Mark and Cynthia came home to the USA early in the pandemic and taught remote from their home in Ohio. Travel restrictions were lifted just long enough for them to return to Tanzania this fall.

Their message will draw us into the new Advent season and give us a spark of faith as we seek the one whose light always conquers the darkness.

Watch for this weekend's worship video to be sent out on Friday.



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, Ray Bruyn, 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.



We will not be able to sponsor poinsettia plants as we have in the past.

We ARE able to donate what we would usually spend on poinsettias to a good cause. The Warren County Ministerial Association has set up a fund to help members of the community in ways that individually we cannot.

Consider donating the cost of a poinsettia plant, in any amount you would like, as part of our December Vision and Purpose Giving. When you donate, a poinsettia coloring page will be added to our wall. This will be filmed and included with our worship videos in Advent.

Help brighten the season by donating to Vision and Purpose today.

We sure do have a beautiful nativity scene that fills up the front of our sanctuary during the Advent/Christmas season.

Many of us will miss being able to see the scene and gaze upon the figures. But do not worry, Pastor Jamie will include a moment each week to focus on just the Nativity scene, and talk about each of the figurines included at the manger.





The Midweek Bible study is taking this week off for the Thanksgiving holiday.

My apologies for the last minute cancellation of last week's study, the family situation I was dealing with ended up conflicting with the time. I appreciate the grace that allowed me to focus on the family situation.

The midweek Bible study will return in December when we will continue working our way through the Gospel of Mark.

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



A Psalm of Thanksgiving, for your family to read together before your holiday meal.

Psalm 65

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed, O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come. When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness. The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

Happy Thanksgiving my friends,

In Peace,

Pastor Jamie